

# The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, February 8, 2006

## Illuminating the flag causes a variety of problems



By Dan Schneider

The brightly lit American flag at the new Mobil station in Lowell Township is generating comments.

Some appreciate the statement while others feel the lights are too bright. The property is zoned Light Industrial, where the uplighting of flags is prohibited by township zoning ordinances.

Craig Hoppen, president of J&H Oil Company which owns the station, said the company plans to tone down the light. He hopes to attain a variance that will allow the station to light the flag in the same way as is allowed in areas of the township with residential zoning. A public hearing is scheduled.

"To be honest, the lights on it are a little brighter than we intended," Hoppen said.

The company was not familiar with the township's lighting ordinance as it applied to flag display.

"We were not aware of it when we put it (the flag) up," Hoppen said.

The U.S. Flag Code states that a flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated. But the code does not define proper illumination.

One group frustrated by the presence of the lights is the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association. The association operates the James C. Veen Observatory on Kissing Rock Ave. in Lowell Township. The lights shining on the flag are smack in the middle of the southeastern skies, the prime viewing area for the telescopes in the observatory.

"The bad part about it is it's in the location of our best skies," observatory committee chairman Ron VanderWerff said. "That's where a lot of the astronomical features are."

There are lots of nebulas in that part of the sky. Other features are also popular, not only with the amateur astronomers but also with the public who come to visitor nights at the observatory.

According to VanderWerff, the southeast is also the darkest part of the sky. When it was built in the late 1960s, the Veen Observatory was off the beaten path. But the beaten path has expanded, and now it is hemmed in not just by the bright lights of Grand Rapids, but by the lights in the Lowell commercial districts as well.

"It was certainly not our goal to offend anybody," Hoppen said. "Our goal was to give the city of Lowell something to be proud of coming into the city."

He said the company plans to be flexible.

"We want to get along with all our neighbors," Hoppen said. "We do plan on toning it down, we just don't want to take the lights down completely."

Protecting the dark skies for the observatory was one of the prime reasons behind the lighting ordinance. The matter should be cleared up by the time winter clouds dissipate enough to usher in the astronomical viewing season.

The brightly lit American flag at the new Mobil station in Lowell Township is drawing attention.

## Woman to be arraigned for shoplifting from Main Street store

By Dan Schneider

A 52-year-old Lowell woman is scheduled for a Feb. 15 arraignment on third degree retail fraud charges.

She was arrested Jan. 29 under suspicion of shoplifting from Dream Pieces at 219 W. Main in Lowell. She came into the shop shortly before closing, between 4:30 and 5 p.m. A store employee saw her

leaving with stolen property and notified police. When a Lowell police officer arrived, a civilian ride-along in the squad car saw the suspect enter neighboring Cousins' Hallmark with the stolen property.

The ride-along notified the officer, who confronted the woman in the store. The stolen property, a fringed pillow decorated with birds that retails for \$118.99, was recovered in the Hallmark store.

The suspect was processed at the Lowell Police Department and released that day.

If found guilty of third degree retail fraud, a misdemeanor, the woman

could face a maximum penalty of 93 days in jail and a fine of \$500.

Dream Pieces owner

Shoplifting, cont'd.,  
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## Lowell Light & Power on the move

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

The Lowell City Council has opted to host a public hearing on whether the Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) should move its storage facilities from North Washington Street to Chatham Street.

While it did receive positive support for the move from a neighbor living near the current storage site, the council wanted to give other neighbors a chance to voice their opinions before deciding to go ahead with the purchase of a portion of the former Newell Manufacturing property on Chatham Street. A public hearing has been set for Feb. 21.

Lowell Light and Power general manager Tom Richards presented to the council a proposal to purchase the 6.7 acres at a cost of \$975,000. Richards said the

LL&P board has spent two and a half years trying to determine how to expand its storage facility space and meet upcoming new Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention, Containment and Countermeasure regulations, which will go into effect for the company this August.

At first, Richards said the LL&P board took a look at expanding its existing site but saw problems because the site straddles two municipalities, the city and Vergennes Township. During that process, residents in the area learned of the power company's plan and objected, sending a petition and attending the meetings, he said.

LL&P board member Bill Thompson said this raised the question of whether the facility really belonged at the North Washington location and if this would be the time to move it.

Through a lengthy search, the company found the site

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# Obituaries



of Eaton Rapids, Gordon (Deb) of Ada; brother George (Carole); sisters-in-law Margaret Anderson, Marjorie Potter; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Ken was a past president of Michigan Township Association and served as Ada's Township supervisor for several years. Funeral service will be Thursday, Feb. 9 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Ada, 6330 Ada Dr., Rev. Gary Burdick officiating. Interment Findley Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Ada or American Diabetes Association.

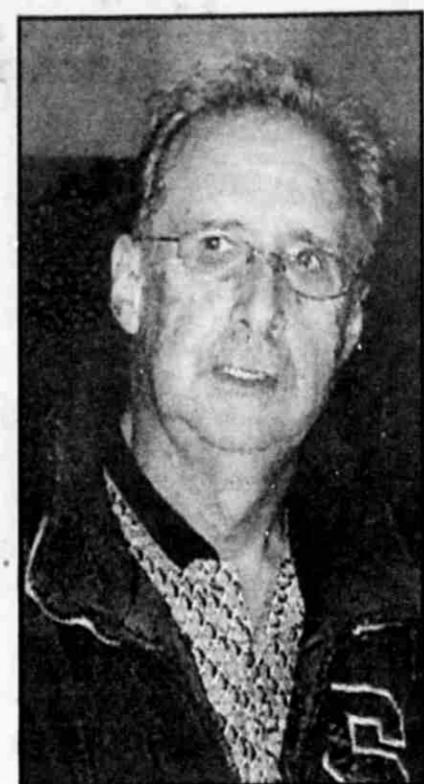
**ANDERSON**  
Kenneth B. Anderson, aged 77, of Ada, joined his Lord on Sunday, February 5, 2006. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Shirley and brother Robert. He is survived by his four sons Daryl (Barb) of Lowell, Glenn (Bonnie) of Alto, Douglas (Julie)

## STEFFEN

Myrna Rosalie (Pashak) Steffen, aged 67, of Alto, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, February 3, 2006. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Carl Steffen; brother Dean (Connie) Pashak; five children Terry (Laurie) Steffen of Alto, Treasure (Mike) Reynolds of OK, Michelle (Brad) Baumgartner of IN, Jill (John) Casper of CO, Mark (Stacey) Steffen of AZ; 17 grandchildren. Funeral services were held Sunday, Feb. 5 at The Apostolic Christian Church, Alto. Interment Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery.

## TOWNE

Albert K. Towne, aged 67, of Lowell, passed away with his family at his side February 1, 2006. Albert was preceded in death by his father Albert Russell Towne. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Roberta (Bobbi); his children Dale (Jeff Vanderploeg) Towne, Rus (Mary Morales) Towne; mother Mary Towne; brothers Gene (Pat) Towne, Robert (Pat) Towne;



sister-in-law Sandy (Gil) VanWeelden, brothers-in-law Jerry (Jan) Thompson, Bill (Helen) Thompson; five grandchildren Jessika, Justyne, Jacob Towne, Kyle, Brian Morales; many nieces and nephews. He served as an MP in the Army, retired from Fisher Body Plant #2 for 30 years and served as a firefighter on the Lowell Fire Department for 28 years and two years as lieutenant and training officer. Mass of Christian burial was held Saturday, Feb. 4 at St. Mary Church, Lowell, Rev. George Fekete, presiding. Interment St.

Mary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Fire Department.

## WITHERELL

Marian M. Witherell, aged 78, of Lowell, went to be with her Lord and Savior February 1, 2006. She was preceded in death by her daughter Peggy Bellah. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Dossion; children Terry (Sue) Witherell, Merry Walker, Michelle (Brad) Brigstock, Melody (Dave) Curtis; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brother Kenneth (Barb) Haney; sister Margaret Bennett; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services



were held Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Rev. Robert Holmes of Christian Life Center officiating. Interment South Boston Cemetery.

## Best employers recognition program accepting applications

Applications are being accepted by AARP through March 20 for its Best Employers for Workers Over 50 program. Six Michigan-based businesses - more than in any other state - received recognition as Best Employers in 2005.

This annual recognition program, now in its sixth year, acknowledges companies and organizations whose best practices and policies for addressing aging workforce issues are roadmaps for the workplaces of tomorrow.

Criteria used to select the recipients are employee development opportunities, health benefits for employees and retirees, age of the employer's workforce, alternative work arrangements, and retirement benefits including pensions. Any employer with at least 50 employees based in the United States is eligible to apply to the AARP Best Employers for Workers Over 50 program. This includes for-profit companies, not-for-profit organizations, and government employers.

Those interested in applying can visit the AARP Michigan website at [www.aarp.org/mi](http://www.aarp.org/mi).

## Unemployment benefits are taxable

Tax season has arrived, and the state of Michigan has already begun mailing out year-end statements to anyone who received unemployment benefits in 2005.

"Unemployment benefits are taxable, and those who received benefits will need these statements to prepare their 2005 state and federal tax returns," said Sharon Bonmarito, director of Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA).

The statements, called 1099-G or "Statement for Recipients of Unemployment Compensation Payments," report how much individuals received in unemployment benefits last year. The annual statements are prepared by the UIA. Starting Feb. 1, those with questions about their 1099-G or who do not receive the statement can telephone UIA or visit an agency Problem Resolution Office (PRO) for help.

Toll-free numbers are: Telephone filed claims: 1-866-500-0017, select the inquiry option, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F; Customer Relations hotline: 1-800-638-3995, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. M-F.

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## Annual Lowell Chamber dinner "Winter Gathering" scheduled for Feb. 16

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual dinner, this year known as the Winter Gathering, Feb. 16 at Deer Run Golf Club.

In addition to being the chamber's annual meeting of its membership, the dinner will recognize special businesses and individuals in the Lowell community.

This year, the

chamber's Business Appreciation award will go to King Milling Company.

The chamber's Person of the Year award recognizes individuals/couples for their contributions to the community. Ray and Barb Zandstra are recipients of the award this year.

For the past few years, the Person of the Year award was presented at the Spirit of Community Celebration, recognizing various facets of

community involvement in Lowell; the 2005 celebration was its last. The main awards-- the Lowell Area Schools' Marsha Wilcox Award, the Lowell Area Arts Council's Arty Award and the Person of the Year award--will now be handed out at each organization's annual gathering, as was the case before the institution of the Spirit of Community Celebration.

The chamber's Winter

Gathering starts with a social time of appetizers and a cash bar at 6 p.m. Dinner, served at 6:30, will feature salad, marsala chicken, wild mushroom and pork loin, shrimp penne pasta alfredo, green beans almandine, redskin potatoes and rice pilaf. The award presentations follow.

The cost of the event is \$30 per individual or \$200 for a company table of eight. It is open to the public.

## Historic District may be exempt from proposed awning ordinance

By J. Lohdell  
Contributing Writer

Before considering a proposed ordinance on awnings and canopies, the Lowell City Council received a request to remove the Historic District from the regulations.

The council reviewed the ordinance at its Monday night meeting, setting a public hearing on the proposed ordinance for Feb. 21. While not officially reviewing it, the council did consent to having Historic District commission chair Steve Doyle comment on the proposal, which he said could lead to confusion.

The Historic District has its own regulations on awnings and canopies following the U.S. Department of Interior's standards for readability, Doyle explained. He could easily see someone getting frustrated and confused between the differences of the Historic District commission's guidelines and the city's proposed ordinance.

put up an awning that has to be taken down because it doesn't meet the Historic District requirements, but he has this piece of paper in his hand from the city with the awning and canopy requirements," he said.

Doyle said the awnings and canopies should be treated like signage, which states in the ordinance that those in the Historic District need to seek review from the Historic District Commission.

Councilman Al Mathews said he understands where this issue will need to be addressed when reviewing the ordinance.

The Lowell Planning Commission put together the

ordinance after discovering that the city's zoning ordinance doesn't cover the matter.

At its meeting two weeks ago, the planning commission opted to not put a height restriction on canopies and awnings with the ordinance defining a canopy and awning and that they not encroach beyond the public sidewalk into the street. Awnings and canopies requiring foundations would still fall under structured building requirements.

Doyle noted he found it interesting that there is no limit on the number of awnings and canopies a building can have.

Doyle noted he found it interesting that there is no limit on the number of awnings and canopies a building can have.

The Lowell Planning Commission put together the

## Shoplifting, continued ... From Page 1

Carolyn Price said the store has not had trouble with shoplifters in the past. The store has been in business for six years.

"We haven't had much of a problem at all," Price said. "We've been very lucky that way."

She said the suspect in this case had visited the store previous to the shoplifting incident.

"Over the past few months, she has been in here ... regularly enough that we know who she is," Price said.

The woman's previous visits were always near closing time.

Price said she doesn't feel like shoplifting is a major problem for business owners in Lowell.

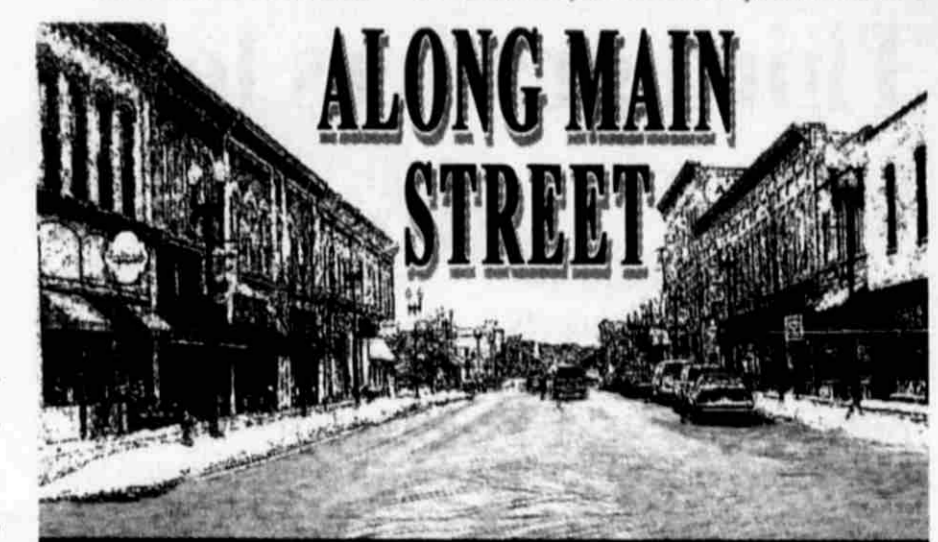
"It happens on occasion, but I would not say it's a major problem for

any of us," she said. "We just have to be aware that it's a possibility."

She said the police response to the incident in her store should make other merchants feel a degree of security.

"I think other merchants should know how quickly

and efficiently the police responded," Price said. "It's also not a bad thing for people in the community and outside of the community to know that we do catch shoplifters."



## WRITING FEST POSTPONED

The Winter Writing Fest at Cherry Creek Elementary has been postponed from Feb. 9 to March 23, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

## DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

The F.R.O.M. Food Pantry is in need of boxed potatoes, baked beans, boxed cereal, soda crackers, canned fruit and spaghetti.

## BLOOD DRIVE

The Lowell Area Fire Dept. blood drive for the Michigan Community Blood Center is Feb. 8, 2-7 p.m. at Look Memorial Fire Station.

## CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a series of slide shows. The Englehardt Library will offer the free program on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. 451-9476.

## FOODMOBILE

Free food to those in the Greater Lowell area at the Foodmobile in the Foreman Building this Saturday, 10-11 a.m. Bring box/bag. Distributed by FROM.

## LHS VARIETY SHOW

Help support the Anna Organek Fund and come to the LHS variety show, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. \$4 pre-sale/\$5 at the door. Half of proceeds go to Anna's fund. See Robin Briggs/Laurie Summerfield or purchase during lunch in main cafeteria.

## BLUEGRASS JAMMING

West Mich. Bluegrass Music Assoc. jamming will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Riverview in the banquet room. Public is invited.

## HARP THROBS

Franciscan Life Process Center presents its annual harpists' concert Feb. 18-19. Call 897-7842 for ticket information.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING AT MUSEUM

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will be conducting its next Volunteer Training on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the museum (Hudson and Main streets). Volunteers, from museum greeters and tour guides to processing donations, clerical support and special events, are needed. Call Judy Straub at 897-7688 if interested.

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NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP  
An application for a Special Use Permit will be considered at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on February 13, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.  
David Steinbrecher is requesting a special use permit to use existing Agricultural Buildings for rental storage. Rental storage is allowed as a special use with certain conditions under Section 201.304C(14), Rental Storage in RA, and 201.431 B of the Vergennes Township Ordinance.  
The complete application is available for review at the Township Offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 during office hours of Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Call with questions at 616-897-5671, or fax to 616-897-5674. Written comments will be accepted if received by 7:00 pm February 13, 2006. Comments can also be emailed to [clerk@vergennewtp.org](mailto:clerk@vergennewtp.org).  
Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING JANUARY 16, 2006 SYNOPSIS  
Motions approved:  
• Minutes of December meeting. List of all invoices paid.  
• Motion to rescind previous motion regarding CDBG funds and request they be used on Snow Avenue Project.  
• Motion to refund application fee to Gasser.  
• Motion to upgrade cemetery software.  
Complete copies of the minutes are available at the Township office or on the website [www.bownetwp.cc](http://www.bownetwp.cc).  
Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate  
Estate of HENRY PAUL TOCZYDLOWSKI  
Date of birth 03/07/1924  
TO ALL CREDITORS: February 3, 2006  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, HENRY PAUL TOCZYDLOWSKI, who lived at 508 Diamond NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, died 10/09/2005. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to PAUL HENRY TOCZYDLOWSKI, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.  
Deno P. Fotieo P28355 146 Monroe Center St. NW Suite 1100 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 616-459-4279  
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GLORY ROAD (PG) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:10, 9:35  
WOODWICK (PG) 12:05, 2:05, 4:05, 6:05, 8:05  
CASANOVA (R) 1:30, 9:20  
THE PRODUCERS (PG-13) 3:50, 6:40  
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) 10:00  
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# Third graders learn about veterans through service project

By Dan Schneider

Cherry Creek Elementary third grade students from Carol Mandel's and Mary Beth Reed's classes rode a bus to the Grand

Rapids Home for Veterans last Wednesday.

There, they sang patriotic songs for the veterans. They also distributed blankets they had made at school. Most of the veterans in attendance

were in wheelchairs, and the blankets will help to keep their legs warm during the winter.

After the songs, the students enjoyed ice cream with the veterans

and listened to them talk about their experiences. Some of the veterans talked about what it was like to serve in a war, whether it was Vietnam, World War II or another conflict. Other

veterans talked about what being a third grader was like when they were that age.

The visit was a service learning project for the students. It incorporated math in the making of the blankets, music in the singing, and a lot of history and social studies in interacting with the veterans.

Not only did students learn from the veterans' experiences, but they were able to gain a wider perspective on what the veterans mean to our country.

Bill Schreur, a parent who was in attendance, had brought along medals that were awarded to his uncle, Gerald Schreur. He was killed in the Battle of Okinawa during World War II. He received a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. The Silver Star is the highest military award next to the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Don Kramer, regional director of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and also

a regular volunteer at the veterans home, happened to be in attendance Wednesday. He gave an impromptu presentation about what the Purple Heart and veterans' service mean to America.

"I explained to the students what a Purple Heart was," Kramer said.

The Purple Heart is awarded to service men and women who are injured in combat. It is the oldest medal in the United States armed forces. Many of the veterans who live at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans were recipients of the Purple Heart.

"One of the important things about a Purple Heart to a person like me is not that I got wounded, but that I stood up for my country," Kramer said.

He said children, like the third graders who visited the veterans' home, are the most important things American war veterans fought for.

*Third graders project, cont'd., pg. 7*



Last Wednesday, Cherry Creek Elementary third grade students sang patriotic songs for residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans as part of a service learning project.

## Ask Kathryn

With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.



You probably have noticed that the format of this column has changed from "With Our Counsel" to "Ask Kathryn." Based on my articles, some of my readers have called to ask questions about either themselves or their child(ren). These questions have been well thought out and pertinent to their lives, as well as to many other people in this area. With this as my prompter, this column will answer questions that you send to my email address: [kathryndenhouter@yahoo.com](mailto:kathryndenhouter@yahoo.com). I welcome your questions and if necessary, I will research

the question to make sure my answer is sound. In today's column I will answer a few of the most commonly asked questions in psychology:

Q. When is a child's behavior problem so severe or abnormal that professional help is needed?

A. The difference between normal and abnormal behavior is one of degree or, in other words, how often this behavior causes problems for the parent(s), the child and school or the community at large. If the pain or discomfort for the parents and child is frequent and severe in nature, then seeking professional help is appropriate.

Q. How can I, as my child's parent, help my child move away from negative behaviors to more socialized behaviors?

A. Although there is a huge body of information about how to raise a child, some of this "advice" is contradictory and overwhelming for parents. Some of the most practical and most successful methods are: 1.) First, rearrange the child's schedule to see if his/her acting out behavior is due to tiredness, hunger or another basic reason. 2.) Reward

desired behaviors—my phrase is to always try to "catch your child being good." 3.) Find time to be with your child and support who he/she is as a person. 4.) Ignore negative behaviors and reward positive behaviors.

Q. What are some of the symptoms of depression? What should I be looking for?

A. Although these are tough questions to answer, it is important to address this because more than 25 percent of the population has experienced depression to a greater or lesser degree. A Major Depressive Episode will last at least two weeks, and during that time there is a loss of interest or pleasure in mostly all of one's activities. Suicidal ideation, plan or attempts are commonly present. Impairments of social, occupational and other areas of functioning are present. Major depression is characterized by sadness, hopelessness and a dread for the future. Sleeplessness and loss of appetite frequently occur. Seeking professional help is often a necessary step to take to obtain a satisfactory recovery.

# Viewpoint



A "Yogism" goes something like, "When you come to a fork in the road ... take it!" I guess you just have to know what Yogi means, not what he says.

A few years ago I did come to a fork in the road, picked one road and ended up living down in the Florida Keys. My wife and I run a business here while the reins have been turned over to my staff at the Ledger. Did I take the right road? Well, if weather were the only determinant, I'd have to say yes. It should be sunny and near eighty with a light breeze today.

On the other hand, I do miss an awful lot about living in Lowell. Certainly the friendships forged over the years top the list. This really struck home last Thursday when I received my Ledger in the mail. It arrives here about a week late, so it was probably the January 25th edition. When I turned to the obituaries I was deeply saddened to see Leonard Jackson listed.

I'm not going out on much of a limb when I say that everybody in Lowell liked and respected Leonard Jackson.

I bought the Ledger and moved my family to Lowell in late 1975. Somewhere about that same time Leonard sold Jackson Motors Sales to Henry VanderVennen. Our business careers didn't overlap by much, but Leonard was a neighbor, fellow Rotarian and was chairman of the Lowell Airport Board for many years while I was a board member.

Leonard was always quick with a wise crack. Way back in the seventies I remember pushing my dirt bike down the sidewalk on my way back home. Leonard was out for his evening walk. When we met, he quipped, "Funny thing about internal combustion engines ... they require gasoline." I'll never know how he instinctively knew I'd stupidly run out of gas while riding in the boonies.

A few years later I had joined Rotary, admittedly under a bit of duress. At first I felt uncomfortable, didn't like taking time away from work and began skipping most meetings. Again, on one of his evening walks, Leonard caught me working in the yard. As he strolled by he casually quipped, "You know, Rotary meets every Wednesday."

I was crushed. I guess because I liked and respected the man so much.

After that I vowed to be a better Rotarian. My attendance improved dramatically. I came to enjoy the meetings and worked my way through the various offices serving nearly two years as club president. I'm still a Rotarian and love the organization. All because of a Leonard Jackson wisecrack.

When Leonard was chairman of the Lowell Airport Board he was famous for wielding a flyswatter during summer meetings. He'd swat flies, work us through the agenda and dispense his wisdom.

On one occasion we had members of the Kent County Aeronautics Board in attendance. We were trying to milk them for a little help in paving our main runway. When it became obvious they wouldn't open their pockets, Leonard quipped, "You people spill more money over at the Kent County International than we're asking for here." The meeting went quiet. Leonard swatted a fly.

He didn't change any minds, and we didn't get any county help. But I'm sure Leonard's comment made him feel better. The man called 'em as he saw 'em. Leonard was vindicated a short while later when the Grand Rapids Press ran an article criticizing a six figure design fee for new toll booths at the county airport.

Leonard was very proud of the fact he was born on the Fourth of July. Patriotism came easily to him. He was a P-51 fighter pilot during WWII. His unit was the first to operate out of France after D-Day. When it was de-classified, he requested some of his gun-camera footage. It was just a few minutes' worth, but he showed the grainy black and white film at Rotary. WOW!!! One of the best Rotary programs ever!

Michigan State University was also dear to Leonard's heart. As an alumnus he always wore his green and white to Rotary the week of the MSU vs. U of M game in the fall. A Spartans' flag often flew on his front lawn, just below the Stars and Stripes.

Leonard seemed to have a great mind for remembering names and faces. He also had a knack to be at ease and put other people at ease in social situations. He never, ever failed to ask me how my parents were doing. My parents bought cars from him and he advertised in my dad's shopper. Even though Leonard hadn't seen my parents in many years, he always seemed genuinely concerned about their well-being. Nice guy!

Because of my current situation, I hadn't seen Leonard in at least three years. Now he's come to that big fork in the road and I'll never see him again. He was a truly great guy, and people like Leonard are what I miss most about Lowell.

## Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago



By Priscilla Lussmyer

### 125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 9, 1881

Over 2,500 tourists have visited Yosemite Valley since its discovery in 1855, spending an average of \$600 each.

The January thaw arrived with rain on Monday, but the severe winter has killed peach buds, partridges and rabbits.

Raw onions beaten to pulp and applied to the throat are said to be good for diphtheria.

The Journal has gone to great expense for new materials, for doing all kinds of job printing.

### 100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 8, 1906

"Modern Conception of God" is the lead front page article, by Rev. James Butler of Lowell Congregational Church.

Rumor has it that Grand Trunk Railroad may buy the Pere Marquette Greenville-Freepoint line section.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes on average, four booklets every day of the year.

A tiny stream, three feet wide, running through Slayton Lake area, has not frozen over with the 10-below temperatures lately.

### 75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO FEBRUARY 5, 1931

The recent massive rockslide at Niagara Falls prompts President Hoover to call a Canadian-American meeting for preservation of the Falls.

A family has earned \$400 in bounties on sparrows at 2¢ each, using poisoned wheat.

Melody Dairy Farms has installed a radio in the barn; music is said to increase milk production 10 percent.

Fewer failures and more school returnees (who dropped out for a while) contribute to the three upper grades' all-time high enrollment of 154 at Lowell High School.

### 50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER FEBRUARY 9, 1956

Lowell Cub Packs donate \$100 to the Scout Cabin Fund.

School open house will be next Monday evening, including the Home Economics House and the new Shop-Music-Bus building.

Firemen answered 53 calls in 1955, up from 33 in 1954; a dry season of grass fires did it.

Clarksville's Bert Hanson, still in business after 50 years, is one of few who still do forge welding.

Residents of Grindle Drive ask for city water, speed limit signs and street lights.

### 25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER FEBRUARY 4, 1981

Charlie Doyle chairs the Brothers of the Brush committee, preparing for Lowell's Sesquicentennial this summer.

M. Peter McPherson, Acting White House Counsel, is nominated by President Reagan as Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Another reduction in state aid leaves the Tri-River Conference in crisis with school sports programs, not to mention education in general.

Reservations for shelter houses and picnic areas at county parks are already rolling in—more than 250 so far.

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

What a great story about Eric Mundt and his efforts to make something good out of something bad. For him to take 30 abandoned bicycles in various states of disrepair and create 11 working bicycles for Flat River Outreach Ministries to give away is ingenious as far as I can tell.

Eric kept 30 bikes out of the landfill and helped to make 11 kids very happy. People like Eric are what make Lowell such a great place. Congratulations to Eric for making a plan and following through on something for the benefit of others.

Cliff Yankovich

Dear Ledger,

Months ago, the Ledger carried a story that State Representative Hildenbrand, an "avid outdoorsman," had introduced legislation to make hunting and fishing a constitutional right. Although this sounded like the work of a canny press agent, I actually had a copy of the House Resolution kicking about for a while. As a man who much prefers oceanfront at the Doral with open bar to a fetid duck blind, I decided to check out Michigan legal history.

Doctrine goes back very far in the common law of England. Fish [and game] are *ferae naturae*, so no one has title to them, so states the Michigan Supreme Court, *Lincoln vs. David* (184) but I suspect much earlier authority. Fish are the property of the state unless otherwise provided by statute and are subject to regulation, moreover, no one has a right to possession unless they are physically in that possession.

"Legislation regulating fishing and the pursuit of game does not infringe the Due Process Clause, if it is reasonable." In *re Van Hyning*, 257 Mich 146 (1932). "The legislature also has considerable latitude in regulating hunting seasons ..." *McDonald vs. Chrysler Corp.* 68 Mich App 468 (1976).

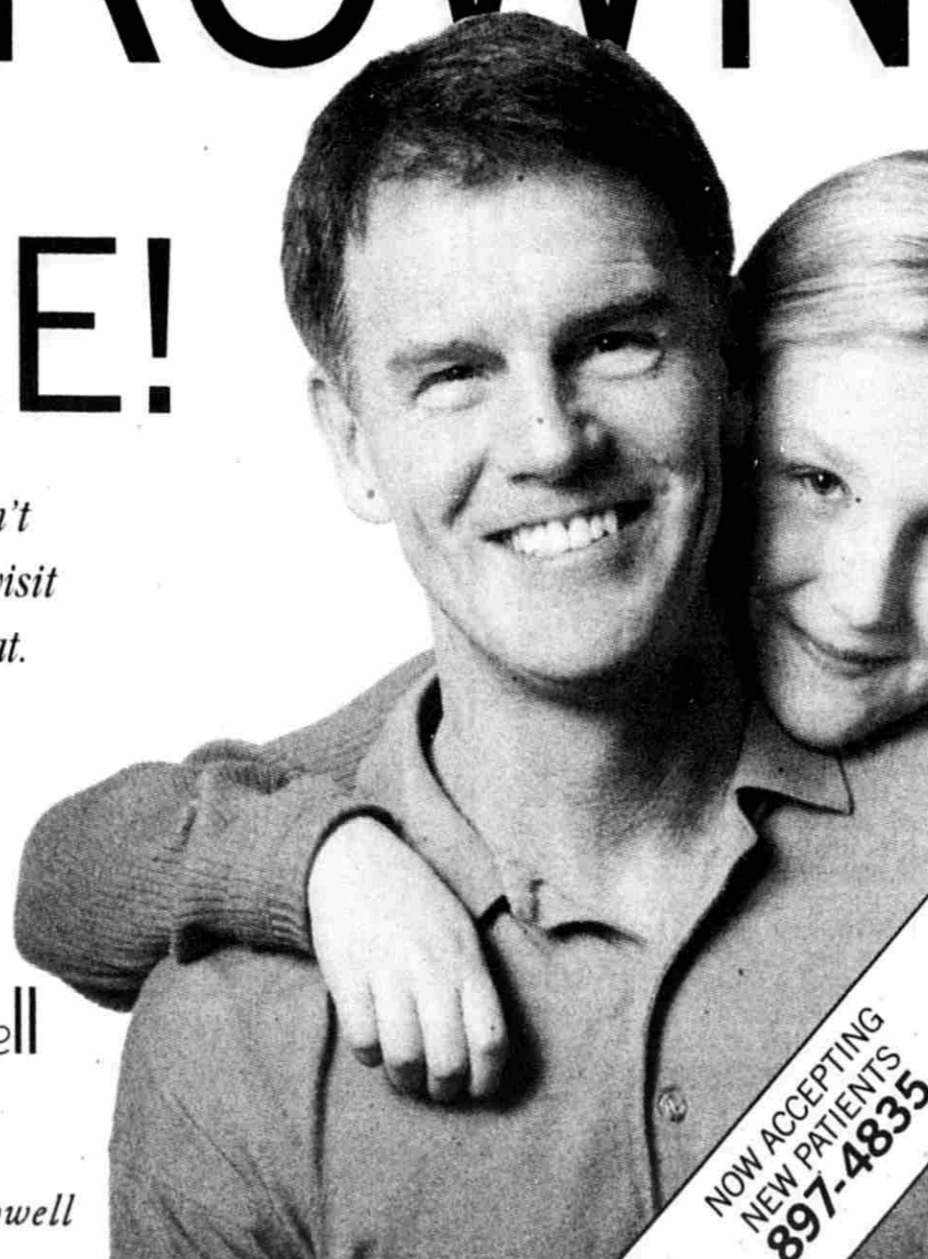
Given the great weight of legal holdings of benefit to hunters and fishermen, even commercial, is the Hildenbrand proposal to give constitutional dignity to "hunter harassment" laws? That would be too weird. Until he or the Legislature speaks more plainly, I cannot possibly comment. However, a 1995 contribution in the University of Detroit Law Review looks interesting if I ever get around to cleaning my Kentucky long rifle.

Representative Hildenbrand does good things. His energetic staff performed important constituent leg work for my mother last year, chivalrous, considering she does not even live in his District.

G.M. Ross

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# Weddings

Kraft/Yeo



Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Kraft

The June 18, 2005 wedding of Katie Yeo and Bryan Kraft took place at Ada Community Reformed Church in Ada. Parents of the couple are Samuel and Patricia Yeo and Jeff and Gayle Kraft. Maid of honor was Autumn Lunsford. Bridesmaids were Becky Yeo, April Kraft, Amanda Mastenbrook, Kari Wilson

# Engagements

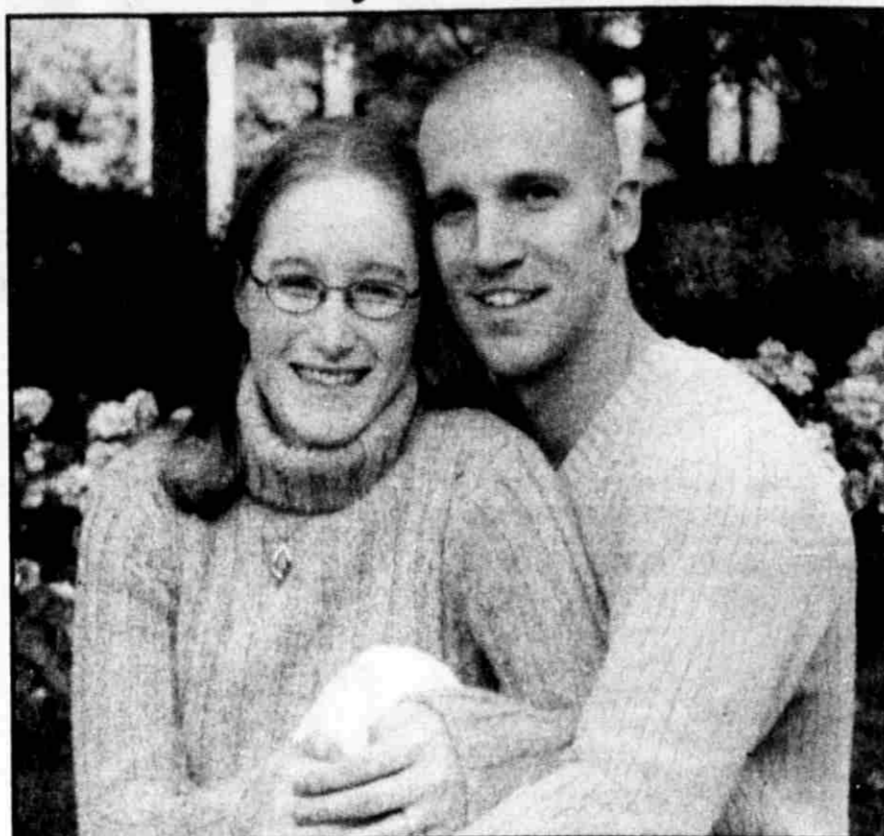
Stauffer/Brown



Casey Brown and Tamara Stauffer

Tamara Sue Stauffer and Casey Karl Brown will exchange wedding vows on August 5, 2006. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Dave and Sandy Stauffer of Lowell.

Stardevant/Dykstra



Leesa Stardevant and Matthew Dykstra

Michael and Rosella Meier of Farwell would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Leesa Stardevant to Matthew Dykstra, son of Jeff Dykstra of Baldwin and Beth Dykstra of Ada. The bride-elect is a 2002 graduate of Farwell High School. She currently lives in Lansing and works for the Michigan Quality

Community Care Council. The future groom is a 1997 graduate of Lowell High School and a 2002 graduate of Michigan Technological University. He is an engineer at Michigan Public Power Agency in Lansing. The couple will be married July 8, 2006 in Laingsburg, Michigan.

\*\*\*

*If you ever start feeling like you have the goofiest, craziest, most dysfunctional family in the world, all you have to do is go to a state fair. Because five minutes at the fair, you'll be going, 'you know, we're alright. We are dang near royalty.'*

- Jeff Foxworthy

# Reflections of faith

Pastor Joe Fremer  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The other night I had a dream. I was working at a computer, trying to install a new program or something, and a little gray message box popped up on the screen. It said simply, "God not found. Continue? [Yes] [No]" I remember not being all that surprised or upset by this information. In my waking life, I often get thwarted when I try to use my computer. It regularly complains to me that something or other, this file or that resource, is not available.

When I awoke, I thought about how strange it was that the message box even bothered waiting for my Yes or No answer. If God is "missing," what's the point of continuing? What's the point of anything, if there is no God, or if He is there but he is unavailable?

Yet there are many people who try to continue, in spite of their belief that there is no God, or that He is an unanswerable question, or an unknowable quantity, or cannot be reached for comment. As they struggle with the despair that must inevitably follow from such a position, they may think of themselves as being "brave realists," but the Bible calls them "fools" (see Psalm 53:1).

There are a few lights on your car's dashboard--we call them "idiot lights." One comes on and it warns, "My oil pressure is dangerously low." Another comes on and says, "Hey, my battery charging system isn't working right." And then of course there is the dreaded and mysterious Check Engine Light. They call to you saying, "Under the current conditions, I wouldn't recommend

continuing to drive, or something bad will happen." Only an idiot would completely ignore the warnings.

Acts 14:17 says, "He has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." And that's just the basic level of evidence. It gets better when we explore the historical record, the eyewitness accounts of those who saw and heard Jesus of Nazareth. They became convinced that this thirtysomething rabbi was actually God in the flesh, here on our world to demonstrate God's very intense interest in us human beings. The evidence is quite remarkable! People killed Him, but He came back, because God's love refused to just stand by while we pursue our idiotic path of living apart from Him. And when we believe that, we find the power to continue. Even when some things in life that don't make sense, walking with God makes it possible to continue, and to find joy instead of despair.

# National child passenger safety week

According to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP), nearly two out of five Michigan children do not ride in child safety seats.

In recognition of National Child Passenger Safety Week, Feb. 12-18, the Michigan OHSP reminds parents and caregivers to make sure child safety seats and booster seats are used and properly installed.

Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of children ages 3-14, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In Michigan during 2004, 20 children, ages 8 and

younger, were killed and 2,582 were injured in traffic crashes. "Many parents are putting their children in child safety seats, but they're often installed or used incorrectly," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP division director. "More children also need to ride in booster seats after they outgrow their child safety seats."

It was discovered that nearly 80 percent of children in Michigan use child safety seats when riding in vehicles, but 71.4 percent of the devices are installed incorrectly. And only 8.6 percent of children ages 4-8 in Michigan are riding in booster seats.

Child safety seats reduce the risk of death by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers in passenger cars. Children ages 4-8 in booster seats and safety belts are 59 percent less likely to be injured in a car crash than children who are restrained only by a safety belt.

Children are especially vulnerable in a crash because of the size and shape of their bodies. When traveling in a vehicle, young children should ride in child safety seats, which are designed to protect them by spreading the force of a crash over their entire body.

Many people believe

# HEALTH

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie



## SLEEP APNEA

Sleep apnea is a common condition affecting more than 12 million Americans. It is more prevalent in people over the age of 40, especially in men.

People with sleep apnea will stop breathing for short periods of time throughout the night while sleeping. These periods last anywhere from 10-30 seconds and occur hundreds of times throughout the night. Sleep apnea prevents you from getting proper rest by causing frequent arousals and not allowing you to get the deep refreshing sleep that you need.

Sleep apnea is usually caused by something blocking the upper airway while sleeping. When your airway muscles relax, the tongue or soft palate obstruct the throat. Sleep apnea is often associated with loud snoring.

Individuals suffering from sleep apnea will get sleepy throughout the day. Other symptoms include poor concentration, irritability, forgetfulness and difficulty staying awake while driving or performing monotonous tasks.

Sleep apnea can increase your risk of heart disease, hypertension and stroke, and it is often associated with obesity.

Sleep apnea is diagnosed after being evaluated at a sleep center. Your heart rate, breathing rate, oxygen levels, sleep stages, and other vital signs are monitored while you sleep.

If sleep apnea is diagnosed, your doctor will usually advise you to lose weight, avoid sedatives or alcohol, and sleep on your side, if possible. Frequently, a mask will be prescribed that delivers air under positive pressure to keep the airway open while you sleep. Occasionally surgery is performed to remove excessive tissue from the soft palate that may be obstructing your airway.

People that have been diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea and are properly treated tend to have a new outlook on life. They can't believe how much better they feel. They are more rested, have more energy, they are able to concentrate better and generally feel better.

If you think that you or someone you sleep with has sleep apnea, you should mention this to your physician for possible referral for a sleep study. For further information contact the Sleep Apnea Association at [www.sleepapnea.org](http://www.sleepapnea.org).

FEBRUARY 15: Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline.

\*\*\*

*The deepest definition of youth is life as yet untouched by tragedy.*

-Alfred North Whitehead (1861 - 1947)

# Accomplished hunter to speak at Lowell church

Professional Hunter and South African Outfitter Hannes Els will be at Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Lowell Thursday, Feb. 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. Pete Odland, of Belding and founder of "Hunt for a Cure" will host the event. He first met Els when he accompanied Ted Nugent, founder of United Sportsmen of America, on a bow hunting safari to South Africa. Els will talk about life growing up on the family

ranch (12,000 acres) in Northern South Africa near the Botswana border and tell his tales of hunting and tracking big game. The name of the ranch, Lincroma, is derived from three rivers that meet at the ranch: Limpopo, the Crocodile and the Marico. The family program is free and open to the public.

# Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY 9: Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Inga Weeks, Noah Newhouse, Allee Brenk, David Potter, "AJ" Alvin Davis Brenk II, Adrian Sterzick, Brady Foster, Dave VanKeulen, Charlotte Drake.  
FEBRUARY 10: Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.  
FEBRUARY 11: Gladys Thorne, Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin, Terry Nugent.

FEBRUARY 12: Peg Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy.

FEBRUARY 13: Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard.

FEBRUARY 14: Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.

# Third grade project, cont'd... From Page 4

"The most important thing we have in this country is our children," Kramer said. "My time is almost over, but their time is just beginning and we need to make sure they have the peace and happiness we've enjoyed." When he gives presentations to older students, Kramer talks frankly about the horrors of war and his own experience in the military. Last Wednesday, he de-

emphasized that part of his message for the young audience. He said the third graders heard and comprehended his message about the importance of the veterans' service, however.

"A lot of the students were young, but you could tell by the way they were listening that they could understand what I was saying," Kramer said. He knows from his experience as a volunteer with the veterans that a visit like they received last Wednesday is very meaningful to them.

He told the students, teachers and parents who came to the veterans center that it is important for them to talk to their family members who served in wars. He said people need to write that history down while we still can.

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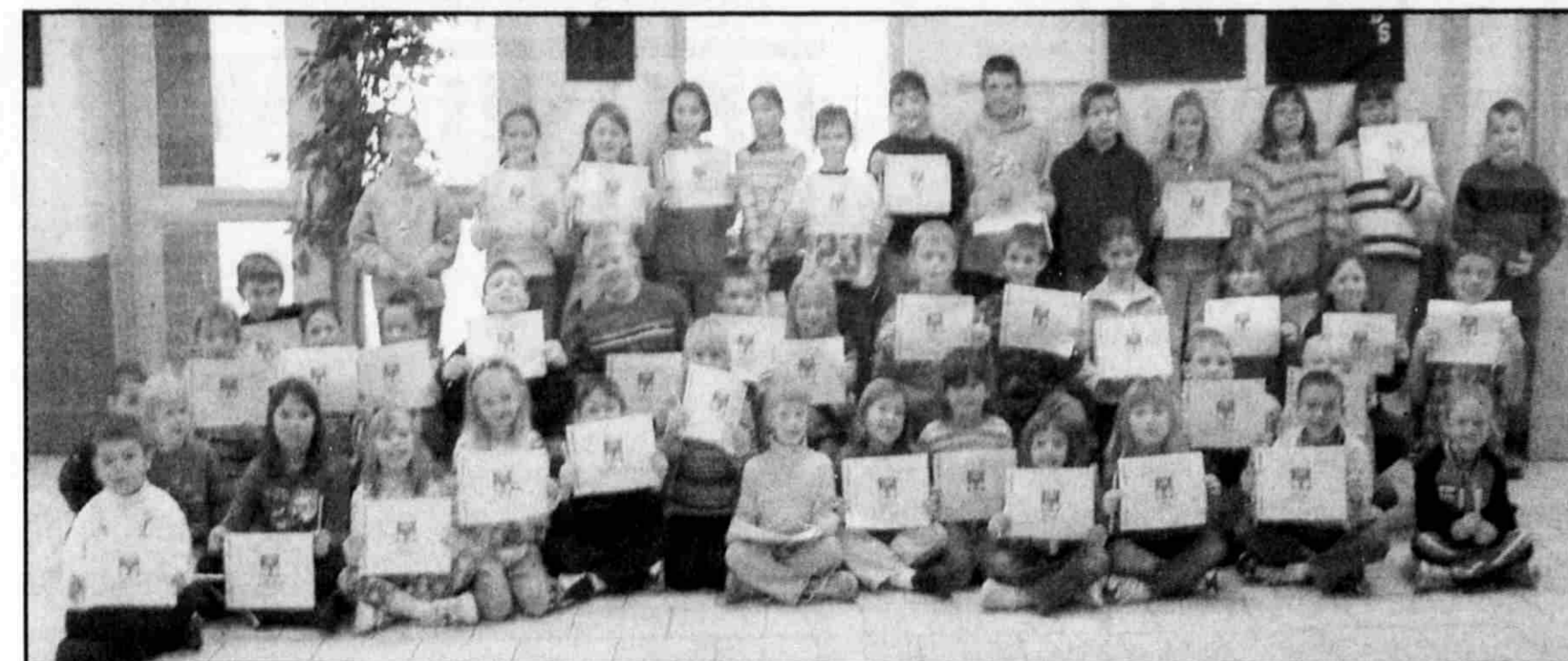
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<p><b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell</p> <p>Across the street from the Vermont Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332</p> <p>Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Worship Services.....8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Kids Club Wednesdays After school to.....5:30 p.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>"Lowell Mission" of the Evangelical Apostolic Church of North America Located at 404 North Hudson (First Congregational Church Facility) Christ Centered Sunday Worship.....4:00 PM Bishop Alex McCullough.....Clergy In Charge Reverend Deacon Mark O. Fleet, Clergy In Assistance Parsonage.....(616) 897-2387 Corporate Web Page.....http://www.eacna.org May the Lord fill you and bless you this day!</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Jonathan &amp; Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors <b>SUNDAYS:</b> Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups &amp; "XL" Youth Sunday evenings <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDI BERG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study . 9 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: <a href="http://www.fbcloowell.org">http://www.fbcloowell.org</a> Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB J.C. ....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>
			<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>



### Character In Action

Students at Murray Lake Elementary who received the Character in Action award for November 2005 are: Kiersten Ashenbrenner, Karson Murley, Samantha Petrovich, Michelle Smith, Logan Smith, Anna VanOverbeek, Jessica Johnson, Fiona Kelly, Austin Pollock, Logan Wilcox, Ryan Walters, Tyler Kapcia, Andy Russell, Andi Reynolds, Nina Vulpetti, Hannah Briggs, Francesca Robinson, Maxwell Dean, Landon Nethercott, Mitchell Strawser, Maddi Emelander, Anna Barnes, Josh Idema, Rose Ford-Weber, Robert Sheldon, Avery Buckius, Sawyer Buck, Eli Boulton, Maria Nowak, Matthew Beachler, Sonja Grasmann, Addison Buckius, Luke Donnelly, Tyler Prill, Schyler Lambert, Bailey Haefner, Brianna Higgins, Kailee Dawson, Sam Mason, Sara Walters, Danny Kruse, Kaylee Wold, Annette Kehoe and Paula Hommoun.

### Elementary inventions at Cherry Creek



The second grade classes at Cherry Creek Elementary have been studying about force, motion and simple machines, and turning them into new toys. After learning about levers, wheels and axles, wedges, screws, inclined planes and pulleys, children and their families were asked to invent a toy that used two or more of these simple machines. The students demonstrated their toys with their classmates. Pictured are the second grade classes of Kim Lum and Jackie Tousley with some of their inventions.

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# Featured Artist

## Brenda Klein

By Dan Schneider

at the Huntington Galleria in Lowell.

Nature is the theme of the art currently on display at the Huntington Galleria in Lowell. Artist Brenda Klein of Ada has been working

in fiber art for about three years. It started with quilting. Then while reading a book about fabric painting, she stumbled upon a process called heliograph, or sun printing.

That process, combined with Klein's love of nature, led to the work on display at Huntington. The pieces

are brightly colored, many of them looking like psychedelic renditions of a forest floor.

Forest floors and other outdoor locales are where Klein picks up the materials she uses to make her art. Leaves, pine needles, fern fronds basically become paintbrushes.

"My pruning shears are always in the van, so whenever I spot something interesting, I just stop and cut a few sprigs," Klein, who is deaf, wrote in an e-mail about her work.

To make a painting of plants with the heliograph process, Klein applies light-reactive paint to cotton fabric. On top of this, she arranges plant materials. Then she places the fabric and plant materials outside in the sun.

The paint on the fabric reacts with the sun's ultraviolet rays. Shapes of

leaves, etc., are left on the fabric. Sometimes, sunlight gets through some of the leaves, creating an image of the vein structure. The translucence of the various plant materials is one of the variable factors in creating heliograph artwork.

"One of the interesting parts is the interplay and movement of colors with differing plant materials used," Klein wrote. "The anticipation of waiting for the final piece to dry is very addictive. You never know exactly how the print will develop because there are so many factors involved, like temperature, humidity, wind, rain, etc., during the drying process."

More than 30 years ago, Klein attended Kendall College of Art and Design where she studied interior design. She then pursued a career in education. Following her retirement in

1998 as a special education teacher in Grand Rapids Public Schools, she decided to go back into art.

Creating the heliograph is the first step in Klein's creative process. She uses fabric quilting to build a design around the heliograph, and stitches designs through the piece. Each piece contains a stitched raindrop, which is her signature. She calls her studio Raindrop Studios.

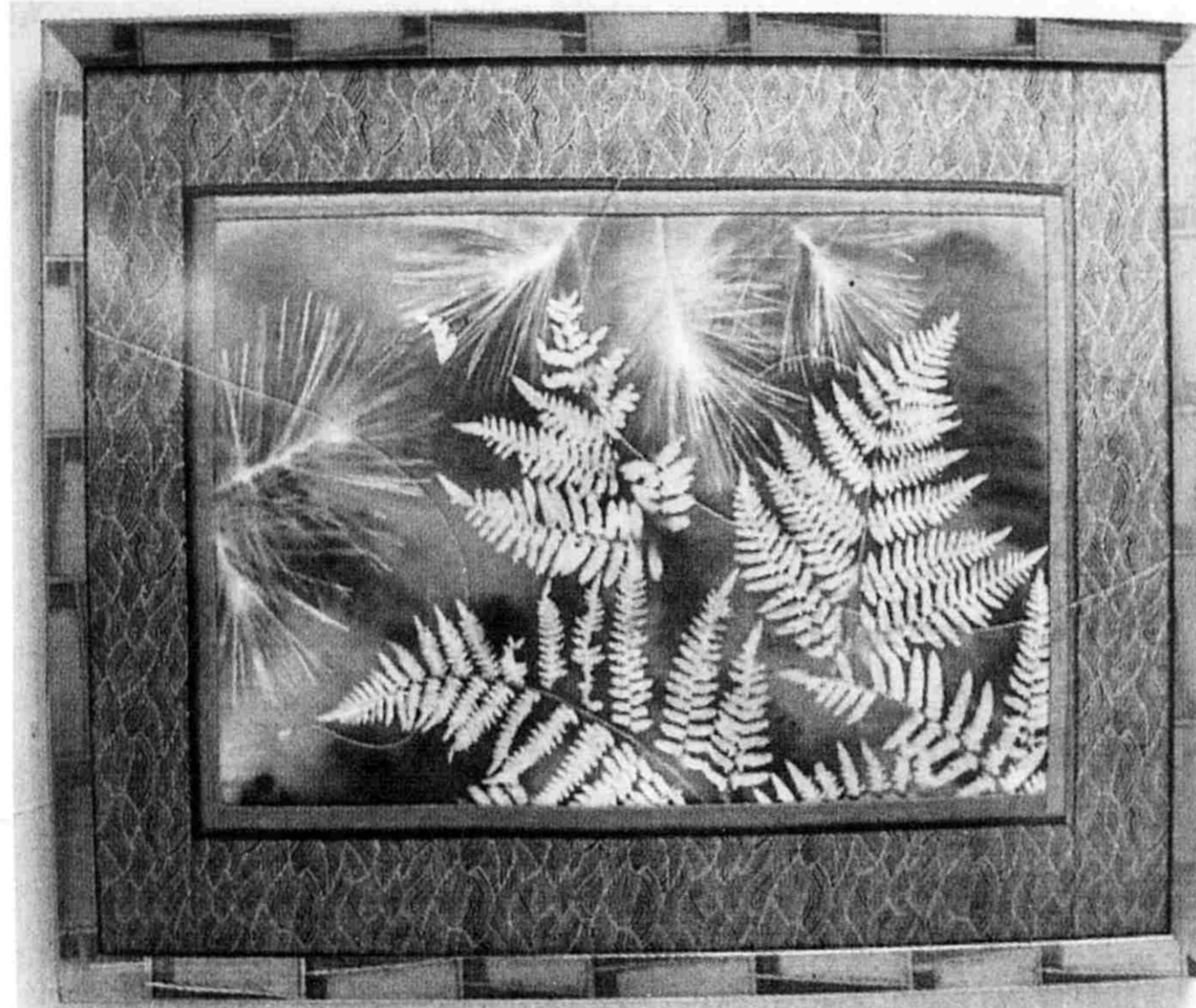
Klein's husband, who is also employed in the graphic arts field, does her framing. He made the large maple wood frame for "Serendipity" from scratch.

Klein's work will be on display through March 6.

Also on exhibit are digital works by Lowell artist Ronnie Lane. His computer-generated images of angels can be viewed at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce through Feb. 22.



"Serendipity" is the largest of the fiber art pieces by Brenda Klein now on display at the Huntington Galleria.



"Forest Floor" by Brenda Klein of Ada is currently on display at the Huntington Galleria.

# No matter what the ride he can make the saddle

By Dan Schneider

Joel Forrest has found a good fit in his leatherworking career.

"I don't have patience for anything, but I can work on a saddle all day," Forrest said.

He just opened a saddlery and repair shop at 96 West Main Street in Lowell. It's called Circle J F Saddlery.

He makes custom saddles, tack, holsters and gun belts. He also repairs them. The shop is just starting to take on the smell of leather. He has been a full-time saddlemaker for nine years, but began small 10 years ago, doing repair work for himself.

"I used to do a little rodeoin' and if you break equipment, there's no one there to fix it, so you work on it yourself," Forrest said.

Riders started coming to him for repairs. Then he set up a repair shop at Millbrook Tack and Trailer in Grand Rapids. That grew to the point where he needed to open his own shop, which he did in Coopersville.

Now, a lot of his

customers are on the east side of Kent County, so he's moved the business in this direction.

"The one in Coopersville was busy but it was a lot of travel for a lot of the customers," Forrest said. "I have a good customer base here and I live closer to here than I do to Coopersville."

He likes top quality leather, using mostly hides from the U.S. He said it is important to be mindful of the particulars when building a saddle.

"You've gotta have comfort on the horse and safety for the rider," Forrest said. "If you don't have that, it's kind of like having a basketball team and making them wear too-small shoes."

Forrest builds and specializes in the repair of western saddles. He does some repair work on English saddles but won't attempt a repair with which he isn't familiar.

"I've know how to do a lot of repair work on English saddles but ... if it's not something I've studied and know exactly how it's done, I'm not going to work on it," he said.

In recent years, his leatherwork has expanded quite a bit from saddle and tack work.

"People don't just ride skin and bones' horses now, a lot of them want to ride steel horses," he said.

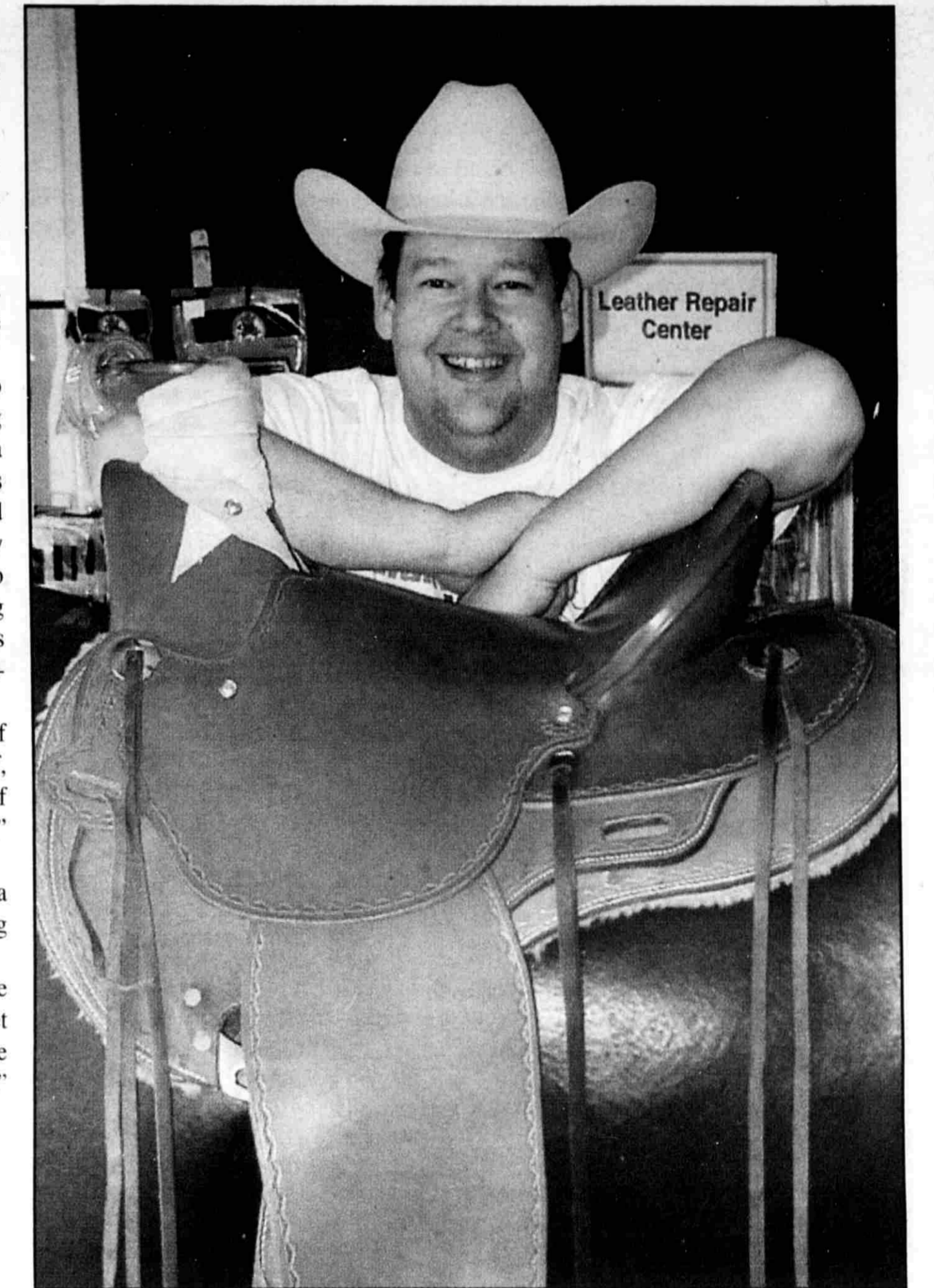
So Forrest makes motorcycle seats and saddle bags.

With changes to Michigan's Carrying Concealed Weapons law a few years ago, Forrest gets a lot of requests for belt and shoulder holsters. Cowboy action shooting is also becoming a popular shooting sport, and those hobbyists like the low-slung, wild-west-looking gun belts.

"There's not a lot of places that do custom stuff, and these people want top of the line, custom-made stuff," Forrest said.

The shop also carries a line of Tandy leatherworking kits.

"The other thing we're going to start, if we get enough interest, is some leather tooling classes," Forrest said.



Joel Forrest, with a saddle "Blackie," just opened a saddlery and leather repair shop on Main Street.

# Power company on the move, continued ... From Page 1

on Chatham where Newell Manufacturing was formerly located. While larger than its initial needs, the site does offer many advantages. It allows for all of its equipment, minus the poles, to be stored inside behind locked doors, Richards said, giving the power company added security. The pole storage is being considered on the north side of the building. The amount of traffic generated would be significantly less than what a normal manufacturing

company would have with a semi-truck coming and going every couple of weeks, he said. The additional cost to operate the facility would be about \$1,000 more per month including paving repairs and maintenance.

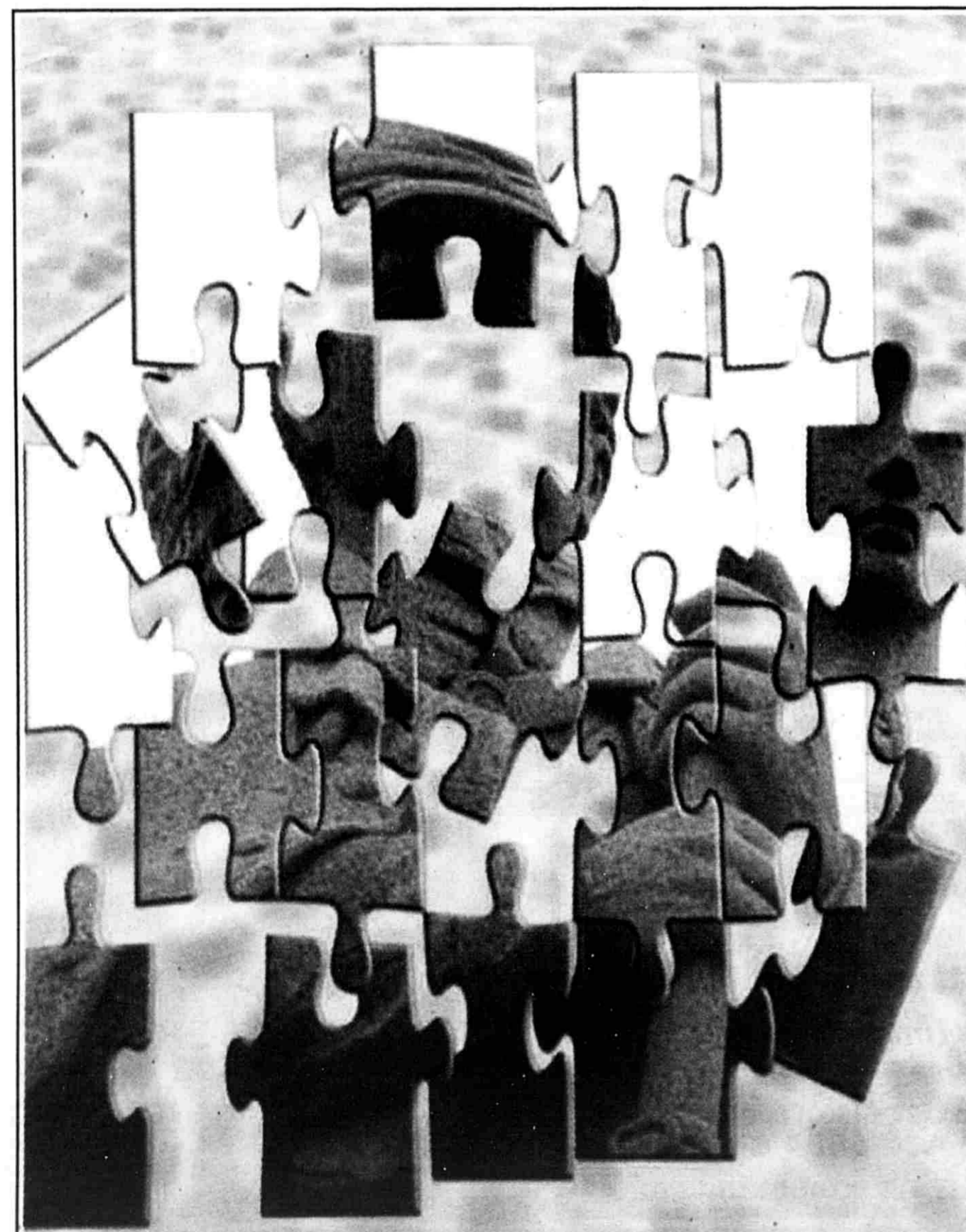
As for upgrading it to fit the power company's needs, that cost would be minimal, meeting new EPA regulations and installing a crane or lifting device, Richards said.

"We saw this as a good investment," Thompson said.

"It also takes care of a lot of problems our community as a whole has had."

The North Washington property could be sold as residential, which surrounds it, and probably would be much more marketable that way, Richards added.

Concerns were raised about the space being more than necessary. Richards said his board has spent two and a half years trying to find a suitable site. And, the extra space could be rented out or the city could use it, he said.



# Around The Town PUZZLE

At left is a scrambled landmark, person or place in Lowell. Can you guess who or what it is & where?

If you think you know, fill out the form below and bring it in or mail it to the Ledger office at 105 N. Broadway.

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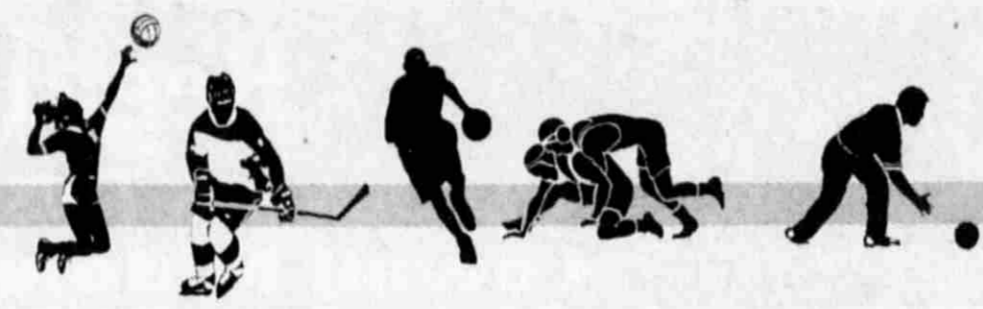
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# RED ARROW SPORTS



## Lowell loses close one to East, defeats Greenville

*Second half of Arrows' season off to strong start despite loss*

By Dan Schneider

After a thrilling second-half comeback last Tuesday, the Lowell boys basketball team fell three points shy of upending East Grand Rapids.

There wasn't much for Red Arrow fans to cheer about in the first half. East Grand Rapids dominated most aspects of the game. Their full court press in particular flustered Lowell, sometimes making it difficult for the Arrows to get the ball across mid court.

East was up 37-20 at halftime. But then things changed.

Lowell limited East to four points in the third quarter. The Pioneers were missing shots, Lowell was grabbing rebounds and stealing sloppy passes. Ryan Lane was hitting turnaround jumpers.

East called timeout with 2:34 left in the third and a 41-31 lead. The Arrows cut the lead to 41-35 by the end of the third quarter. Lowell was back in it.

East scored on their first possession of the fourth quarter. Josh Hettinga answered with a three-

pointer. Lane hit a short jumper to make it a three-point game.

A layup by Drew Hattie made it a two-point game a short time later.

Then, with 2:54 left in the game, Hettinga hit a three-pointer to give Lowell a 45-44 lead. That got the home crowd on its feet and East called another timeout.

East found its feet again for the last three minutes of the game. Lowell kept it close, but couldn't score enough points to compensate for the free throws East was hitting on the other end. On Friday, the Red Arrows dominated the scoreboard, beating Greenville 58-37. It was another game that started with a strong defensive effort in the first quarter. Lowell scored 12 points while limiting Greenville to a free throw.

Greenville led the scoring in the second quarter, but didn't close much of the gap. Lowell went into halftime

with a big lead so they thought they'd start going one on one instead of doing what got them the lead," he said. "Lowell came back, they showed a lot of heart coming back. A lot of teams would have folded, down 17 at the half."

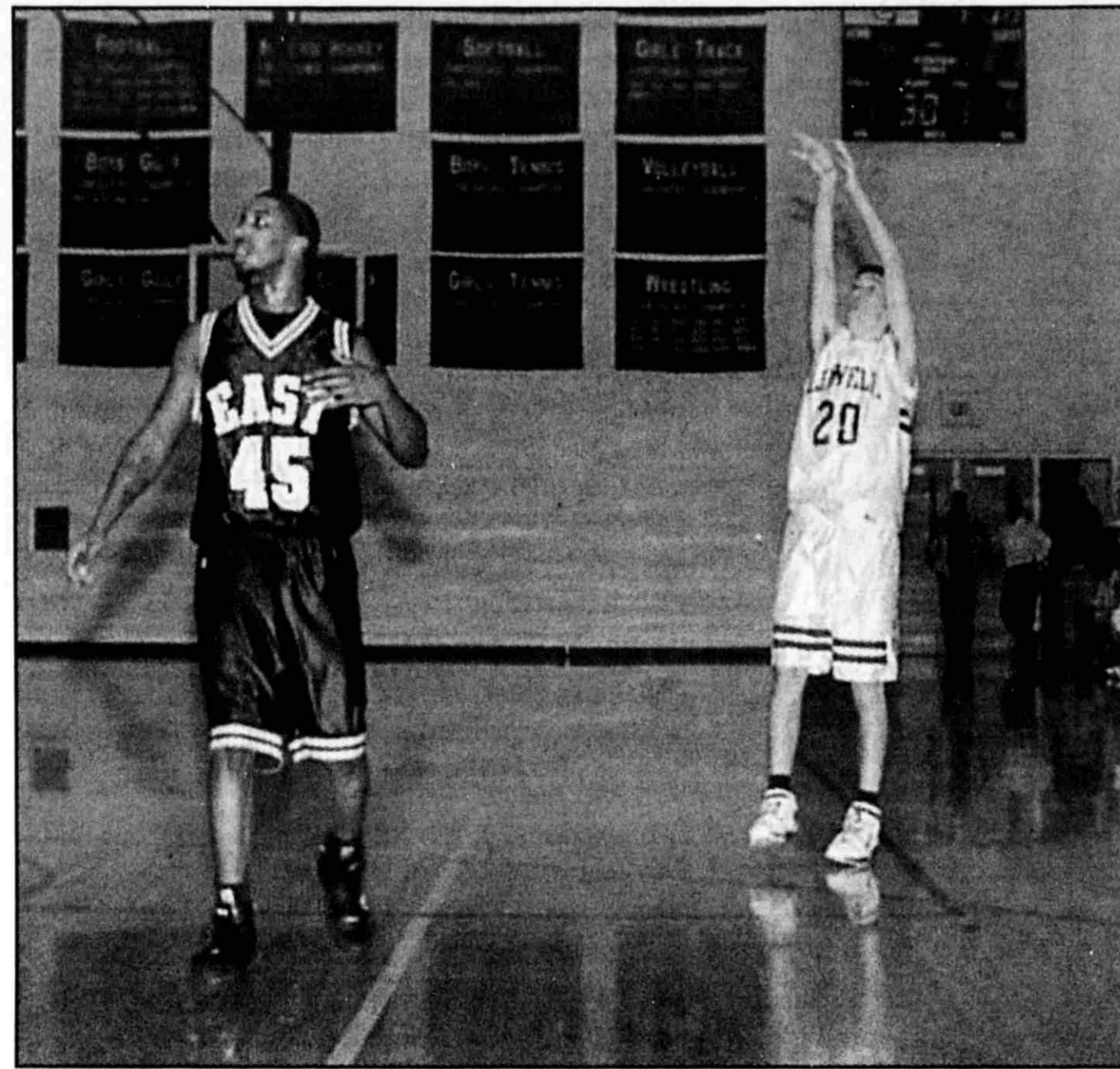
Lowell coach Jeff McDonald agreed.

"We could have cashed it in, but we fought like Lowell kids should fight and we'll walk away with the mindset that we could play with anybody," McDonald said. "We should walk out of this game very confident."

Lane, Hettinga and McElroy each scored 14 points for Lowell. Hattie had seven and Hettinga hit four 3-pointers.

The loss didn't slow down Lowell's strong start to the second half of the season. On Friday, the Red Arrows dominated the scoreboard, beating Greenville 58-37. It was another game that started with a strong defensive effort in the first quarter. Lowell scored 12 points while limiting Greenville to a free throw.

Greenville led the scoring in the second quarter, but didn't close much of the gap. Lowell went into halftime



Lowell's Brett McMahon attempts a three-point in last Tuesday's game against East Grand Rapids.

leading 24-16. Outscoring the Yellowjackets 18-9 in the third quarter, the Arrows led 42-25, then outscored them again in the fourth quarter.

McElroy led Lowell in scoring with 16 points. The Arrows got offense from a long list of the teams'

players: Hettinga scored 10 points; Travis Hippey, 8; Hattie, 6; Lane, 5; Kory Stevens, Ryan Converse and Brett McMahon each scored 3, and Mike Long scored 1.

Notably, five different players: Stevens, Justin Harden, Converse, Hettinga

and McMahon connected from behind the three-point arc.

Lowell hosted Middleville-Thornapple-Kellogg Tuesday. The Red Arrows travel to Caledonia Friday.

## Red Arrow bowling teams still rolling

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell boys bowling team defeated Forest Hills Central and the girls team beat Belding last Monday.

The Lowell girls rolled a shutout, 30-0. Rolling high games were Ashley Nawrocki (217), Erin Sowles (167), Liberty Clark (162) and Kim Ward (143).

The Lowell boys won by a score of 25-5, splitting the

bakers and claiming nine of the regular games. Rolling for Lowell were Anthony Everitt (186 in game one, 234 in game two), Eric Bouwhuis (232, 160), Brandon Jahnke (190, 216), Jake Nawrocki (192 in game two), Sean Adriane (184, 158), and Greg Sherman (170 in game one).

Lowell bowled at East Grand Rapids Jan. 26. The girls' team beat the

Pioneers 28-2, winning both baker games and claiming eight of the 10 high scores.

Rolling for Lowell were Liberty Clark (189 in game one, 135 in game two), Ashley Nawrocki (162, 179), Erin Sowles (162, 157), Chelsea Freed (140, 145), Nicole Videan (118 in game one) and Kim Ward (101 in game two).

The boys' team lost its match at East Grand Rapids

by a 19-11 score. Lowell split the baker games with East, but East had more total points from the bakers. The Arrows claimed five of the 10 regular-game high scores, but fell short on the points grand totals.

Rolling high games for Lowell were Brandon Jahnke (213 in game one, 174 in game two), Sean Adriane

Bowling, cont'd., pg. 15

## Lowell volleyball falls to Northview in five games

*Wildcats win despite Red Arrows' fast start, Kenowa Hills is Lowell's next stop*

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's volleyball team got off to a great start but couldn't seal the deal in last week's home loss to Northview.

Lowell won the first of five games 25-21. Four points was the widest lead margin for either team in that game. After trailing 3-0 at the beginning, Lowell

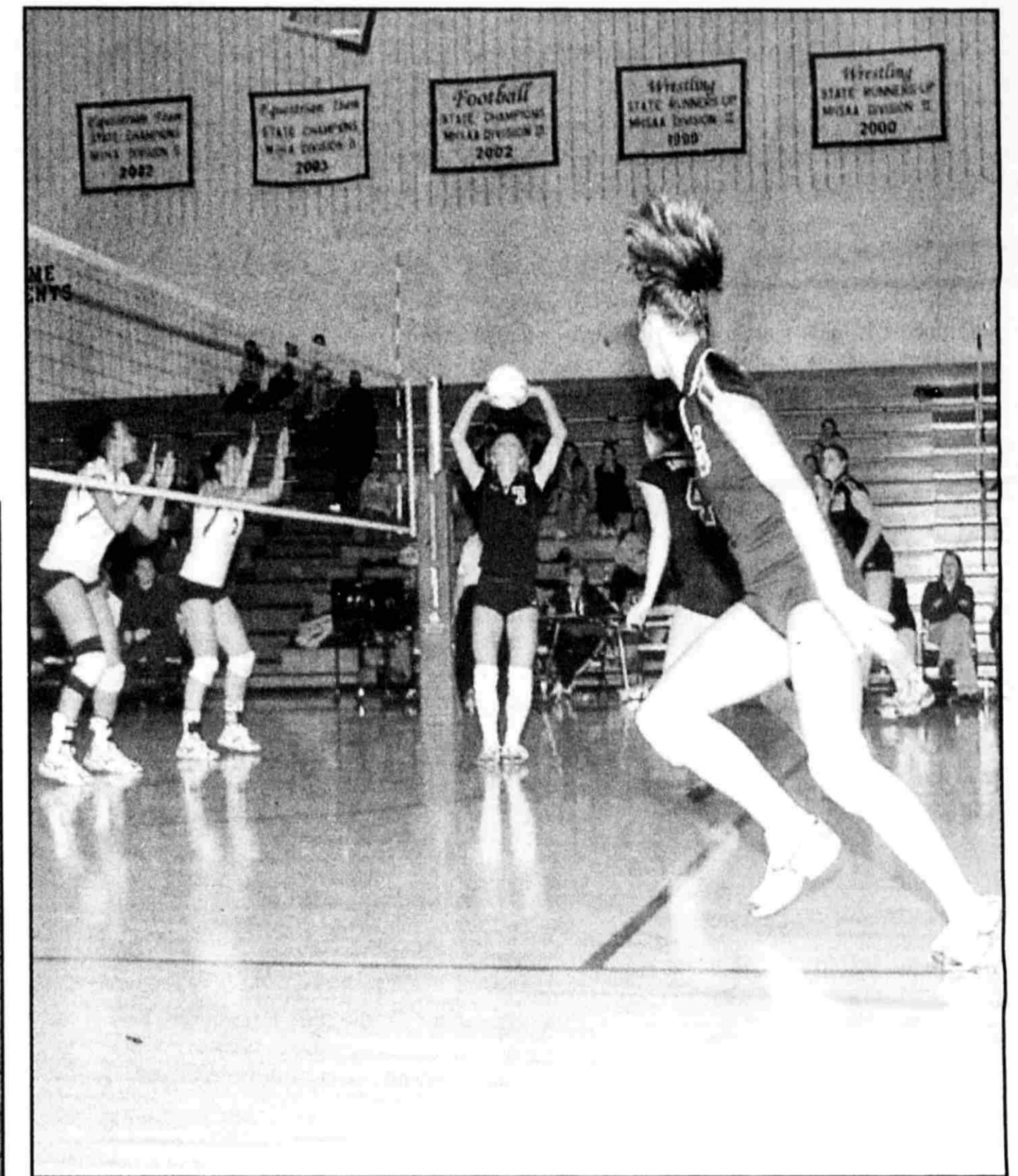
led the whole way until the Wildcats tied it up at 19.

The Red Arrows won by a wider margin in game two, 25-20. They won a point after a long back and forth volley to go up 7-5 early in the match. Northview was up early, but Lowell took control and stayed there.

The Red Arrows also had control through most of the

third game. But Northview crept back into it, tying the score at 20 all. Going into extra serves, Northview pulled out the win, 26-24.

That loss didn't necessarily mean a loss in momentum. Lowell led through most of game four. Again the Wildcats tied it at 19. Northview was in control from that point on, posting a



Lowell's Taryn Schumacher sets up a shot for either Amanda Schneider (#4) or Samantha Mol (foreground) during last Thursday's match.

25-20 win.

Momentum determined the game from there. "Volleyball is a shift in momentum," Lowell coach Gigi Peal said.

That is never more true than in game five of a rally-score match, which only goes up to 15.

Lowell was the first on the scoreboard in game five Thursday, but Northview went on to win 15-9.

"Great start, we just gotta learn how to close the deal, gotta learn how to finish," Peal said. "It was one of the best starts we've come out with."

They were all close games in the match. Game three came right down to the wire, tied at 24. Peal said it is those kinds of pressure

situations the Arrows need to learn to thrive in.

"I think we're still struggling to find the person who's going to step up and close the deal," Peal said. "They're struggling under pressure. I have great players, but when there's any pressure and any tension,

there's nobody who wants the ball."

Lowell's stat leaders in Thursday's match were Kristin Johnson with 14 kills, Amanda Schneider with 11 kills and eight blocks, Malley Cahoon with eight kills. Lisa Johnson had 26 assists and Taryn Schumacher tallied 12.

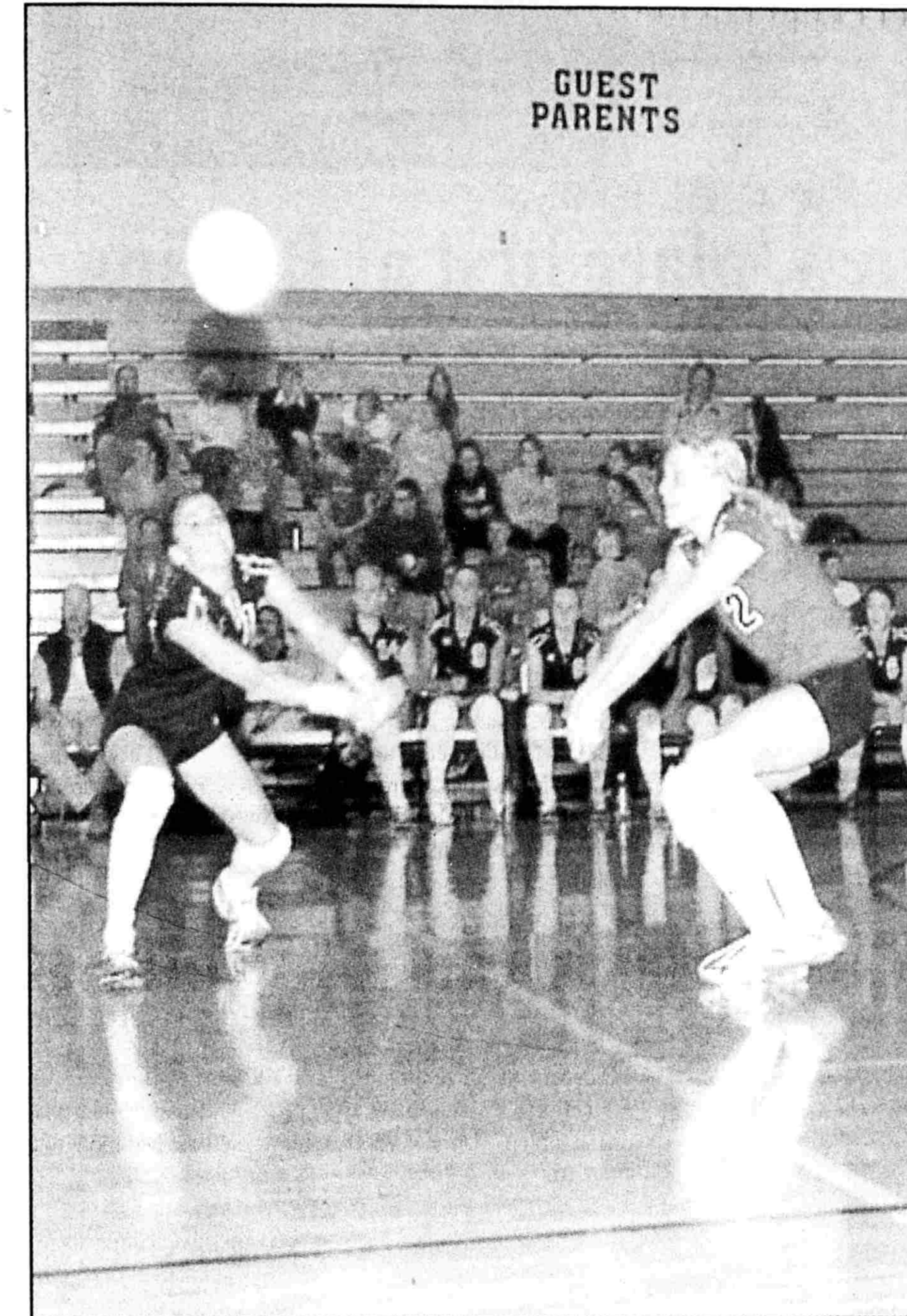
Lowell's next match is Thursday at Kenowa Hills.

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Lowell's Lisa Johnson (left) and Katie McElroy defend on a shot in last week's match against Northview.

## Bowling, continued ... From Page 14

(187), Greg Sherman (171), Eric Bouwhuis (168) and Jeremy Drake (167).

Lowell bowled at Rockford Monday and travels to Northview Wednesday.

Note: Omitted from last week's explanation of how high school bowling games are scored was that for

the rolling of each regular game, a bowler from one team is lined up head to head with a bowler from the other team. The bowler with the higher score between the two

wins a point for the team. In bowling articles, the Ledger prints the top five or six scores by Lowell bowlers, not necessarily bowlers who score team points:

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# Lowell gymnastics places third at St. Johns Invitational

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell gymnastics team posted its best score of the year and placed third Saturday at the St. Johns Invitational.

Lowell's team score of 132.425 was the best this season by more than eight points. The Red Arrows' best previous score was 124.4 Jan. 11 against East Grand Rapids-Caledonia-West Catholic.

"At St. Johns, the Arrows posted strong scores consistently throughout the four events. They performed particularly well on vault and beam.

Top scorers for Lowell on vault were:

Kelli Kowalski (8.50), Richelle Kimble (8.25), Becca Underwood (8.20) and Leannah Seese (8.15). Kowalski placed fourth on vault at the invitational.

Lowell's top scorers on uneven bars were Kimble (8.35), Underwood (8.25), Kowalski (7.9) and Seese (7.75). Kimble placed second in the event and Underwood placed third.

Seese turned in Lowell's highest score of the day, a 9.15 on bars. It was the first time a Lowell gymnast broke the 9.0 mark this season in any event. Her score was good enough for second place at the invitational.

Seese's score led four

good scores for Lowell. Following were Underwood (8.9), Andrea Coffey (8.5) and Kowalski (8.4).

Arrow top scorers on floor exercise were Underwood (8.675), Kimble (8.0), Coffey (7.85) and Mandy Vezino (7.6).

In last Monday's meet at Kenowa Hills, the Arrows fell short 132-119.5.

Scoring for Lowell on vault were Underwood (8.0), Kimble (7.875), Coffey (7.15) and Alicia Weeber (6.375).

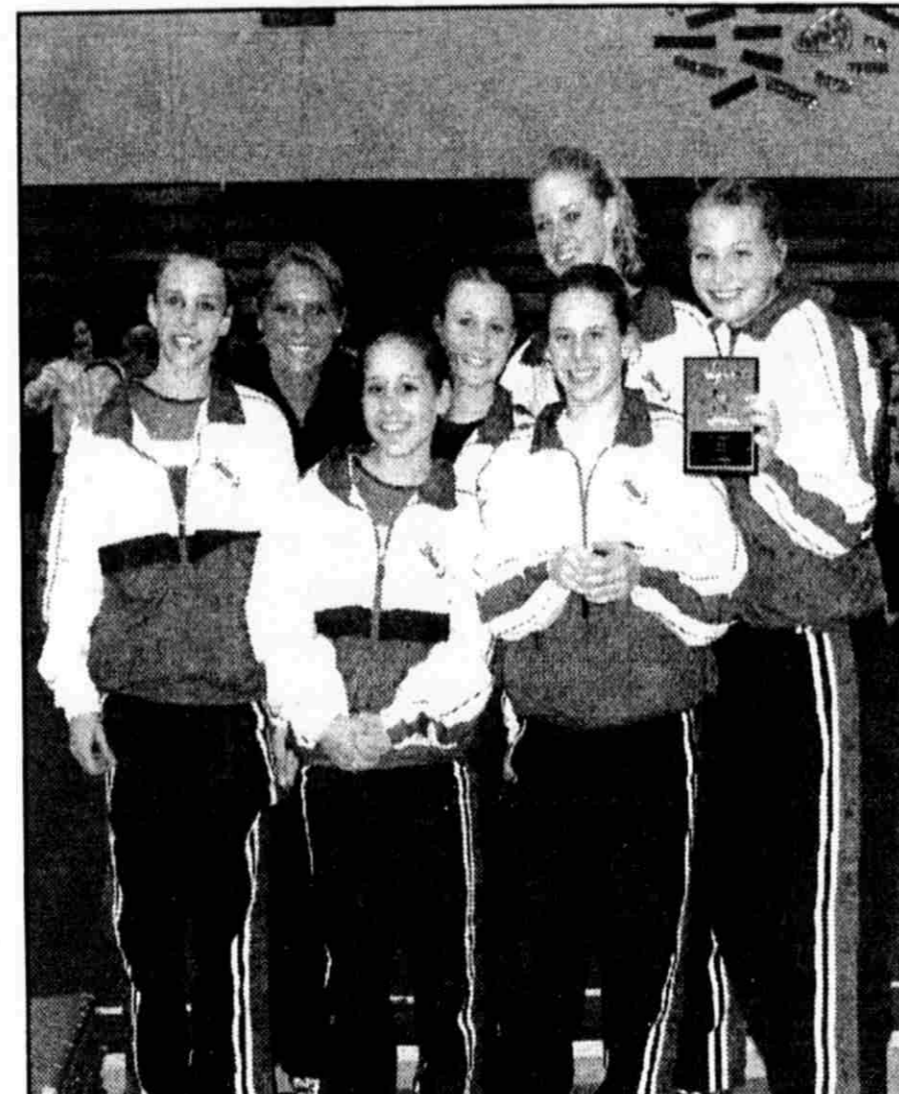
On bars: Kimble (7.7), Underwood (7.45), Seese (7.15) and Coffey (5.45).

On beam: Underwood (8.15), Kimble (7.8), Vezino

(7.7) and Coffey (7.5). On floor: Underwood (8.625), Kimble (7.95), Coffey (7.375) and Vezino (7.25).

The Arrows' next meet is Wednesday, when they host Mona Shores.

**At right: Lowell gymnastics took third place at Saturday's St. Johns Invitational. Pictured, front row, left to right, with their plaque are: Richelle Kimble, Andrea Coffey, Becca Underwood and Kelli Kowalski; back row: coach Skye Fisher, Mandy Vezino and Alicia Weeber.**



# Lowell wrestlers beat Northview, place first at Belding

By Dan Schneider

Lowell wrestling wrapped up an undefeated OK White regular season Thursday with a 44-28 victory over Northview.

The Red Arrows expected a tough match going in. The Wildcats were ranked 10th in the state in the Division 2 coaches poll.

"Northview has got a heck of a program, a very good coaching staff," said

Lowell coach Dave Dean. And they were a tough team. The score just reflects a strong effort on the mat by Lowell.

"The guys wrestled really well ... I was really pleased with their performance," Dean said. "That night we really got a quality performance up and down."

The dual was determined largely by pins,

and most of them were by Lowell wrestlers.

"It was just one pin after the next, it was surprising," Dean said. "You're always hoping for the most dominant performance possible, you never know if that's going to happen or not."

It started at 119 where Lowell's Zach Baum pinned Navarre Hale in 2:33.

"That was a nice win," Dean said. "Hale has a lot of wins this season."

Lowell's Cody Toomey was pinned in the second period by Adam Draves in the 125 match.

"He had a nice match going and then he got caught," Dean said.

Rob Karasiewicz pinned Dan DeWitt in 1:56 at the 130 weight for Lowell. At 135, Justin Boss picked up another six for Lowell, pinning Chris Lossing in 1:33. At 140, Lowell's Tim Gingerich pinned Dustin Miller in 3:31.

At 145, Chris Roeloffs was pinned at 2:39 by Northview's Jake Martin.

In the 152 match, Lowell's Eric Dean pinned Kyle Gustafson in 2:29.

At 160, Lowell's John

Fleet major decided Alex Basel 10-1. At 171, Brock Graham major decided Calvin Preston 16-5.

Alex Phillips of Northview pinned Alex Fleet at :56 in the 189 match. At 215, Northview's Jared Williams major decided Burton 14-6.

At 275, Lowell's Dom Doyle pinned Andre Benites in 3:14.

In the 103 match, Lowell's Tyler Jack lost to Abie Rezene 12-5.

"He wrestled a nice match," Dean said. "The (Northview) kid's really,

really good. Stopping a major decision is basically a win."

At 112, Northview's Spencer Hale beat Ryan Dean 6-4.

Lowell changed plans over the weekend, wrestling at the Belding Invitational rather than traveling to the Goodrich Tournament.

Lowell wrestled Owosso in the first pool match and won 60-15.

In the second dual, Lowell beat Grand Rapids Creston 78-3.

Wrestling Central Montcalm, The Arrows won 54-24 to take first place in the pool.

Lowell beat Belding 61-6 in the tournament championship.

Several of Lowell's junior varsity wrestlers saw action over the course of the tournament.

Lowell hosts a crossover match with Hastings of the OK Gold conference and Muskegon Reeths Puffer of the OK Green conference Wednesday. The conference tournament is Saturday at Northview.

**These children achieved DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE For The Month of January 2006 DR. J.E. REAGAN 207 W. Main - Lowell 897-7179**

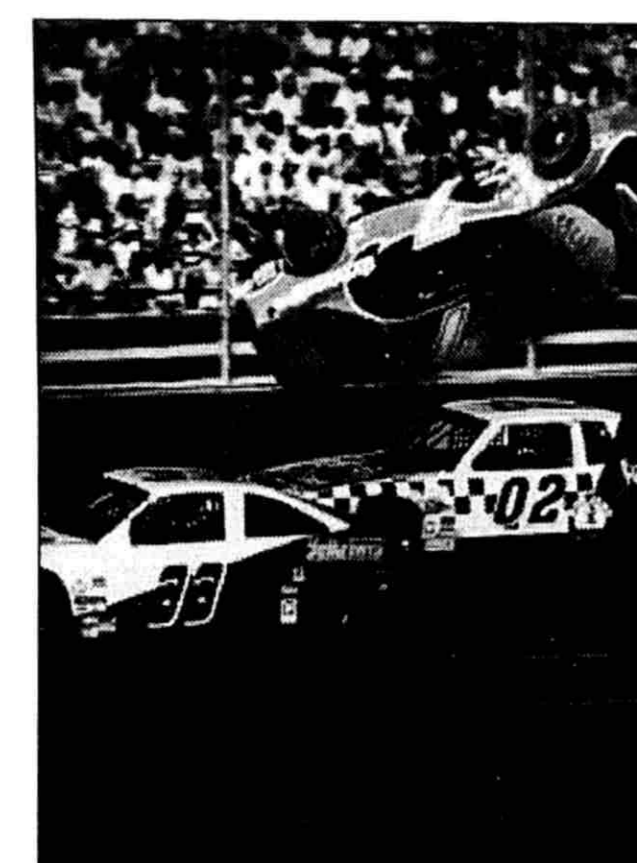
- Jesse Abel
- Tory Abel
- Emily Alguire
- Gerrid Ball
- Justin Ball
- McKensie Barnes
- Tanner Barnes
- Michael Brown
- Nicholas Brown
- Amy Carpenter
- Andrew Chambers
- Emily Churches
- Dax Cilley
- Brittany Corner
- Kayleigh Domanski
- Elijah Gire
- Hannah Haner
- Wyatt Haner
- Johanna Heffron
- Sean Heffron
- Trenton Janes
- Thomas Jeffrey
- Abigail Kastanek
- Andrew McCormick
- James McCormick
- Henry McManus
- William McManus
- Jacob North
- MacKenzie North
- Renn Osborne
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# Lowell FFA competes in district leadership contest

Lowell FFA members competed in the district leadership contest in Ionia on Feb. 1. The students researched chosen topics in any area of agriculture and demonstrated their knowledge through speeches and presentations. The 68 students competed against students from five area schools.

Eight out of 19 Lowell students will advance to the regional contests. Paula Blough and Sean Greenhoe

in Jr. High Public Speaking will represent the middle school program; also two Jr. High Conduct of Meetings teams: Cassie Balfour, Emma Bencker, Kari Bergy, Kelsey Langlois, Chelsea Pipkins, Josh Phelps, Kelsey Ward and Jack Weeber; also Seth Boguard, Bob Crosby, Steve Harden, Randy Hogan, Kendra Rasch, David Schrunck and Eric VanSledright.

The high school FFA included the following

students: Brian Sejat, Prepared Public Speaking; Rachel Folkersma, Creed Speaking; Grady Drown, Extemporaneous Public Speaking; Melissa Blough, Edie Chittenden, Amy Junewick, Hannah Knudstrup, Katie Rottier, and Kim Ward, Agricultural Issues team.

A gold or silver award went to Audrey Blodger, Caitlin Clover, Sara Fosburg, Mark Harden, Kendra Merriman, Dylan

Olin, Kaleb Ort, Emma Roderick and Katelyn Videto in Jr. High Conduct of Meetings.

In the Ag Issues at the high school level was the team of Logan Brenk, Brianna Buck, Jim Crosby, Dan Hogan, Leara Glinzak, April Wolf and Blake Zigmont. Receiving a gold award in Extemporaneous Public Speaking and an alternate to the regional contests was Jenny Humphries. Rated gold in

Greenhand Public Speaking were Ian Blodger (regional alternate) and Sheryl Huber; Brian Langlois and Ashley Vanspronsen (regional alternate) received gold in Job Interview. Teams in Demonstration were Matt Burton, Shane Elliot, Tim Harden and Andy Rasch and the regional alternate team of Louis Glinzak, Adam Ingraham and Ben Ritzema.

Competing in Parliamentary Procedure was the first team of Adam Baker,

Caleb Baker Nathaniel Clements, Abbot Kastanek, Tyler Kent, Amanda Seever and Andrew Wilterink. A second team was Regan Doyle, Allen Huber, Andy Oesch, Morgan Olin, Raymond Seese, Stephanie Wade and Pat Walsh.

Belding High School will host the regional contest on Feb. 15. Top teams will advance to compete at the State Convention March 8-10 at Michigan State University.

# Caledonia FFA on the way to state competition

Caledonia FFA members began the march towards state competition in leadership contests with practice starting last November. District contests were held at Ionia High School on Feb. 1. Other schools participating were Lowell, Saranac, Belding, Ionia and Lakewood. Contests included public speaking, parliamentary procedure, demonstration and agricultural issues presentations.

The purpose of the contests is to promote leadership and personal growth through competition highlighting leadership skills. Two teams from the district were selected to compete in the regional level of competition on Feb. 15 at Belding High School. Teams were rated as gold or silver. Of all the district teams advancing to regional competition, Caledonia FFA is advancing the largest number of students. The state finals follow the regionals and are held during the Michigan FFA convention on March 8 and 9 at Michigan State University.

The results are as follows: Greenhand Public Speaking - Justin Vandervennen and Kaitlin Fish; Creed Speaking - Cameron Driscoll; Demonstration - Aaron Buehler and Clayton Berridge; Tim Corson, Kevin Troost and Bradley Beebe; Parliamentary Procedure - The team of Clint Stetekee, Katie Cavanaugh, Ashley Barrett, Elizabeth VanderToorn and Spencer Steeby and the team of Kim Huisman, Emily Scranton, Morgan Warner, Ron Vandervenen and Brady Fischer are both advancing to regionals with a gold award; Conduct of Meetings - The team of David Vandermark, Brittany Wilkerson, Sarah Devries, Doug Snyder, Travis Gerloski, Melissa Good and Alyssa Workman and the team of Zachary Vandermeer, Sarah Vandeffier, Leah Sheahan, Danielle VanSingel, Kelli Warner, Randi Vanderploeg and Carly VanDuinen are both advancing to regionals with a gold award; Agricultural Issues - The team of Jessica Marion, Shannon Defouw, Nicki Billett, Samantha Michelfelder, Vannah Bird and Amanda Hartman earned a gold award and are second alternates to regionals.



Caledonia FFA members continued their tradition of performing well in leadership contests with 41 students competing and representing the community.

**Financial Focus**

With Christopher C. Godbold  
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**IS YOUR ESTATE PLAN IN PLACE?**

Many of us don't like to think about estate planning, because the process reminds us that we are not going to live forever. Yet if you want something of yourself to live on, you should have a comprehensive estate plan. And the best time to start your estate planning is many years before it will likely be needed.

A good estate plan can help you answer many key questions: Who will make financial decisions for me if I become incapacitated? Who will take care of my kids if I die prematurely? How will my money and property be distributed? How can I avoid probate? Can I reduce, or eliminate, the estate taxes my heirs may face?

To address these and other concerns, you will need to work with your tax and legal professionals to create an estate plan that is appropriate for your needs. You will also need to work with a financial professional to select any investments that may be needed within your estate plan. While working with these people, you may need to consider the following:

- Living Trust** - If you only have a will, your assets may have to pass through probate - which can be time-consuming and expensive. But with a properly established living trust, drafted by an experienced attorney, your assets can pass directly to your beneficiaries, without court interference, legal fees, lengthy delays and public disclosure. Also, a living trust can give you more precise control over how - and when - you want your assets distributed.
- Durable General Power of Attorney** - When you create a durable general power of attorney, you can appoint another person to conduct your business affairs if you are physical or mentally unable to manage them yourself.
- Health Care Directive/Living Will** - By establishing a health care directive or living will, you are providing evidence of your wishes regarding the administration of life-prolonging procedures when you are no longer able to communicate.
- Proper Planning Takes Time** - It can take months, or even years, to get your estate plans in the shape you want - and you'll still probably need to make changes as you progress through life. So, don't delay. Get started on your estate planning soon. It can be a lot of work - but it's worth the effort.
- Ownership Titles** - When it's time for your estate to be settled, the ownership of all your assets - real estate, securities, retirement accounts, etc. - will be an important issue. Your tax and legal advisors can help you determine which forms of property ownership - such as joint tenancy, sole ownership and tenants in common - are suitable for your needs.
- Beneficiary Designations** - It's obviously important to name beneficiaries on life insurance policies, annuities and other financial vehicles. But many people don't review their beneficiary designations periodically - and that's a big mistake. If you get divorced and remarried, or have a new child, you'll want to change or add beneficiaries. If you forget, your family could go through some major headaches when it's time to settle your estate.
- Will** - If you don't have a will, your wishes may never be fully honored, because state law will dictate how your assets are divided. If you have no living relatives, and you die intestate (without a will), your estate will go to the state.

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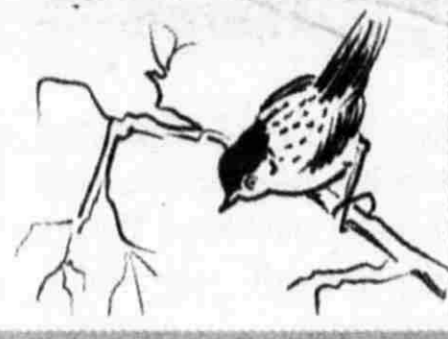
**Sign-up Fee:**  
\$45 (With 10 Fundraiser Items)  
\$60 (Without Fundraiser)

**Sign-up At:**  
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**Wednesday, February 1.....6 - 9 PM**  
**Saturday, February 4.....10 AM-2 PM**  
**Wednesday, February 15.....6 - 9 PM**  
**Saturday, February 18.....10 AM-2 PM**

# Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



OH DEER!

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been working on updating population goals for whitetail deer. This is not an easy task because of the diversity of habitat and land use interests across the state.

Most of the Upper Peninsula, for example, has plenty of room for deer to roam, but food is scarce and the weather is usually severe. These factors have a limiting effect in deer numbers. Deep snow, cold temperatures, a late spring, or a combination of these conditions can take the lives of thousands of deer across the U.P. The southern Lower Peninsula, on the other hand, has less snow, warmer temperatures, and reliable food sources. Therefore, most

Michigan deer reside in this region. The problem is that most state residents also live there, and it is where the majority of agricultural land is located. Deer-human conflicts are common in this region where habitat has been fragmented by extensive development.

Aside from weather and habitat, there are economic and social issues to be considered. Deer tend to do well in agricultural areas. Field crops and orchards are on the whitetail's menu which can cause significant losses for farm operations in areas of high deer numbers. Over browsing natural food sources can have a negative effect on wildlife and plants. In suburban areas, landscaping and gardens can be damaged. Car-deer accidents are a problem in areas of high human population. Bovine tuberculosis in the herd seems to be under control, but has been a factor in deer management in the northeast Lower Peninsula.

On the positive side, whitetail deer provide recreational opportunities for nature lovers, photographers and hunters. Just observing deer in the wild creates excitement for residents as well as visitors to Michigan. Approximately 750,000 deer hunters generate significant revenue for wildlife management and the state economy. Federal taxes on guns and ammo come back to Michigan

for habitat improvement which benefits both game and non-game species. About 250,000 deer harvested each year provide high quality protein, some of which is donated to food bank programs.

In order to effectively deal with local conditions, the state is divided into 101 deer management units (most of which follow existing county boundaries) for study and implementing management plans. A draft proposal was presented at public meetings held in December and January at locations across the state from Baraga to Romulus. Citizens were invited to comment on the recommendations and contribute ideas for herd management. At the meeting I attended, there were a number of constructive ideas presented by the audience regarding deer numbers, season dates, tag allocation, and landowner cooperation. If the other meetings went like the one I attended, it is certain that not all parties will be happy with the final proposal which will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission in March.

Deer management has always been difficult and is getting tougher as more variables enter the equation. The whitetail deer is part of the cultural fabric of Michigan and deserves the best effort from everyone so the remarkable animals can remain a healthy member of Michigan's wildlife community.

## Murray Lake readers



Meijer \$10 gift cards were presented to a number of Murray Lake Elementary students during January. Students submit tickets for every 10 accelerated reader (AR) points they earn. At the end of each month, the gift cards are drawn and distributed to the lucky winners. Pictured, back row, left to right, are: Abbey Flentje, Aubrey Steed, Catherine Majnska, Nick McCormick and Santana Boulton; front row are: Bethany Kazanowski, Baily Jack, Laurel Bronkella and Doug Weed. Not available for the picture is Zack Dawson.

## Math Parent Night



Bushnell and Cherry Creek elementarys hosted their first Math Parent Night one year ago. Family feedback was positive and to celebrate, both schools decided to offer a similar experience again this year.

Held last week, Math Parent Night included extending the invitation of attendance to Alto and Murray Lake adult family members. Responding to parental feedback, principals will explore the possibility of offering a meeting for parents in the fall and possibly again in the winter for the 2006-2007 school year.

Cherry Creek principal Maureen Dorough said, "Our teachers welcomed this opportunity to share valuable information with parents regarding the Every Day Math Program."

Bushnell principal Karen Burd stated, "This was another example of the value placed on a very active partnership between home and school."

**Dan Vosovic makes Wednesday nights fun and exciting. We look forward to watching him every week.**

**Congratulations to the seventh grade boys basketball A & B teams! You make your parents proud.** - B. Earls

**I believe we should support the Danes by buying Danish products and support their economy during the riots in the Mideast.**

**The Grand Rapids Press will no longer print a weekly TV guide. I hope our cable company will start using Channel 12 for the TV guide.**

**I was wondering why there's no coverage in the Ledger on the Lowell competitive cheer team. Those girls practice every day.** -The parents

**Oh where, oh where has my little WKAR gone? Oh where, oh where can it be? With its quality programs and interesting shows, Oh where, oh where can it be?**

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for **GEORGE BLOCHER** a resident of **Schneider Manor, who turns 90 on Feb. 16th.**  
 Mail cards to 725 Bowes Rd., Apt. 3-C, Lowell, MI 49331.

## FOUND

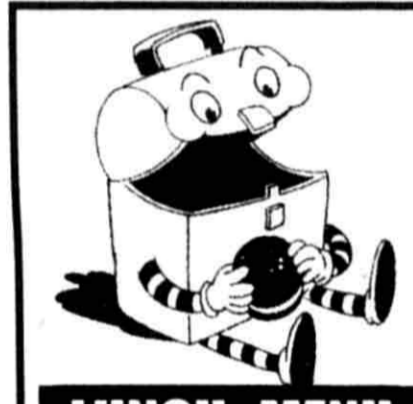
**FOUND** - brown tiger cat by Bushnell Elementary, 897-2761.

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## LUNCH MENU ELEMENTARY MENU

Week of Feb. 13, 2006

**MON:** Cheese pizza (BBQ Rib on Bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

**TUES:** Chicken nuggets, potato wedges, peas & carrots, sugar cookie, milk.

**WED:** French toast w/ syrup or cereal, scrambled eggs, tater tots, fruit or juice, milk.

**THURS:** Danimals yogurt w/cheese wedge & graham crackers (three meat sub on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

**FRI:** Professional Development Day - no lunches served.

# Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column

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*Since the Methodist Church has such a large parking lot, why do its members still park in the "No Parking at Any Time" areas? They park on both sides of Jackson instead of in the lot!*

*Missing in action: Jen, Kim, Trisha, Brenda where have you been? We miss you. If you see these great people let them know they are missed.*

*If you want to see a funny play, go see the Foreigner. I can't stop laughing!*

*The finance department at central office should be given a big slap on the back for all the unsung hard work they do for the kids of Lowell!!*

*Isn't it about time they opened a Wendy's in Lowell?*

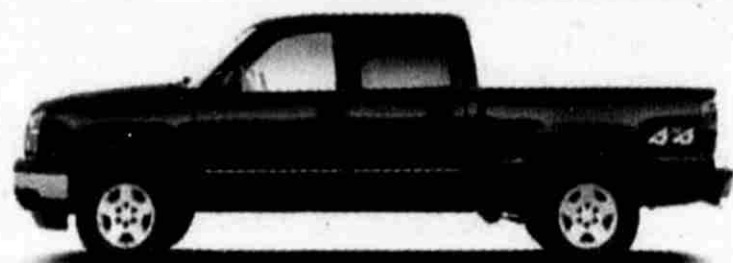
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